

SOCCER



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GST INCLUSIVE



Socceroos: After months of negotiation, the Socceroos will at last be paid by Soccer Australia.

Wave of good fortune rides through Soccer Australia

By Daniel Kuziow

The winds of good fortune have at last swept through Soccer Australia after months of on field anguish and financial hardship.

FIFA have called for direct qualification into the World Cup for the Oceania champion and the long running pay dispute of their Socceroos starts has at last been resolved.

Australia's hopes of direct entry to the 2006 World Cup received a massive boost after FIFA president Sepp Blatter said he would support a push for Oceania to have automatic entry.

The Socceroos, who have dominated Oceania over the last 30 years, have made it but once to the World Cup—the 1974 finals in West Germany. On occasions since, the national team has been forced to endure sudden death qualification matches against teams from South America, Europe and Asia.

Most recently, Australia were knocked out of the running for the 1998 World Cup in

France on the away goals rule when it finished tied 3-3 with Iran, before going down 3-1 to Uruguay last November in qualifying for this year's tournament.

Since then officials and fans alike have been calling for Australia as Confederation Champions to be given free passage into the Finals. SA chairman Ian Knop who met with FIFA officials earlier in the year forwarded the proposals to the committee saying; "The board of Soccer Australia is determined to ensure that the Socceroos are given the best possible chance of qualifying for the 2006 World Cup, and what better way to achieve this than to help Oceania negotiate for direct entry with the FIFA president," Knop said.

"We are entering a World Cup year and again Australia and Oceania is not represented, and while it cannot be changed for 2002, we will leave no stone unturned in our efforts to do what is best for us and the code in our region, in our discussions with Mr Blatter."

(continued on Page 2)

EXCLUSIVE

Inter Milan Sign Aussie Youngster Carl Valeri



By Mark Stavroulakis

Current AIS graduate and former Australian U17 Joeys captain Carl Valeri has embarked on a huge trip in his so far short footballing career.

The 17-year-old grabbed the attention of Italian 'glamour club', Inter Milan, who in turn have given the young Canberra born star a one-year-deal, where Valeri will play in the Primavera side, and hopefully meet the clubs standards and gain that all-important first grade contract.

Currently in Italy, the likes of Bresciano, Grella and Rizzo are making a name for themselves in the Serie B.

In the top flight, Jess Van Stratten signed a big deal with Juventus, but is currently on loan to Verona, while Adrian Madeschi (Atlanta), Mark Byrnes (Venezia) and the more recent transfer of Matthew Engele (Chievo Verona), has shown that Australian players can play their football in Italy—not

just England.

Carl, who shot to fame by leading the recent U17 Joeys side to the quarterfinals of the World Youth Cup in Trinidad & Tobago, attained the interest of the Inter officials in a huge youth tournament held in Italy.

"In April last year I was apart of a NSW select squad that went to the Gardisca tournament held in Trieste. Clubs from all parts of the world competed and many quality players were sighted or spotted by huge clubs during the tournament. After we finished up in Italy, Inter asked whether they could trial me out at their own set up in Milan.

I jumped at the chance and spent a week where I trained twice a day and played a friendly match with the Primavera side. I was so excited, I couldn't believe my luck, training with one of the best clubs in the world under a great coach (Guiseppe Baresi) Franco Baresi's brother, was top-notch experience.

Once my trial was over, Inter said that they'd keep a close eye on me, especially at the up and coming U17 World Cup. Soon after the World Cup had finished, the club contacted myself and offered me the one-year contract. That was to be one of the best moments of my life, I couldn't wipe the smile off my face," explained a happy Valeri.



Carl Valeri: The former Joeys captain has signed a one-year-deal with Italian giants Inter Milan.

It almost sounded like a chapter out of a fairytale book, but this was to be all true, young Valeri was to be apart of the top flight in youth football.

The central midfielder will no doubt face stiff opposition at Inter, where so many quality youth players from around the world are brought into the side. Being a cut-throat club, only a selection of elite players are nurtured through the system in gaining a first grade contract.

Carl believes, whatever happens in Italy, one thing's for sure, he'll be giving it all he has in making a name for himself.

"It will no doubt be really tough playing and training alongside the cream of the crop, especially at a side that fields at least 30 players.

At the moment, I am training two-three times a day, building up my stamina and getting that much needed fitness in preparing myself for a huge start at Inter. I have a one-year deal which means that after the first 6 months, Inter will assess whether I am Serie A material or not.

It's harsh, but it's only made for the best, if something does not turn up well for me, I will no doubt take this experience into my stride.

Like I said earlier, I'll be doing all I can in getting that goal at the end of the day, and

that's signing on a few more years," said Valeri.

There to help young Carl in signing and attaining a credible contract was ex-Socceroo and current SFX agent Andy Bernal. 'Birch', as he is known in the soccer world is under a huge managerial company that deals with the likes of David Beckham, Michael Owen and a few Aussie stars like Tim Cahill, currently headlining top performances at Millwall.

"Carl is a great boy and has a great family behind him, I believe if he works hard enough, his long term goals will come. Being selected in the world eleven at the recent U17 World Cup indicates that Carl has enormous potential in going all the way.

Apart from club, level let's not forget that a future Socceroo spot is also up for grabs, especially with so many midfielders retiring from international football soon. Young Carl has the world at his feet, it is up to him as to whether he can advance to the next level which I'm sure he can," said Bernal.

Carl is currently at the AIS, where he has spent his last 3 seasons, honing his skills in becoming a professional football player. Valeri believes it was the institute that got him where he is today.

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F.L. Press
5-13 Garners Ave.,
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TELEPHONE
(editorial and general enquiries)
Tel: (02) 9562 0559
or
Tel: (02) 9562 0565

(advertising)
John Economos
Tel: (02) 9744 6984
Ben Moring
Tel: 0438 849 053
or
Tel: (02) 9562 0567

E-MAIL
(editorial, advertising and general enquiries)

ABS's new E-mail:
soccer@foreignlanguage.com.au

FACSIMILE
(editorial, advertising and general enquiries)
(02) 9550 9332 or (02) 9564 1224

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 155 Marrickville NSW 1475

SUBSCRIPTIONS
Sylvia Marinos
Phone: (02) 9562 0575
Australia: \$195 (GST incl.)
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EDITOR
Mark Stavroulakis

STAFF WRITER
Daniel Kuziow

LAYOUT/TYPESSETTING
Mary Quartly, Alamita Vea

CORRESPONDENTS
Bert van Bedaf (Victoria Editor)
Alan Clarke (Melbourne)
Allan Crisp (Adelaide)
Glenn Davis (Brisbane)
Otto Bader (Wollongong)
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SCANNING
Bill Hawthorne, Alex Sifakos
FILM PLANNING
Nick Philips
PHOTOGRAPHY
Allsport

DISTRIBUTION

NSW/ACT:
FLP Pty Ltd. 5-13 Garners Ave,
Marrickville NSW 2204
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Collingwood Vic 3066
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Milan sign Aussie youngster Carl Valeri

Continued from front page

"The AIS was the best thing I've done in my whole life. You really get the best coaching and I thank Steve O, Connor, Ray Junna and Mike Milanovic for being able to give me advice on how to further improve my game. The AIS is a place that teaches you how to become independent, so in cases like mine, going overseas won't be as daunting as it's known to be. Overall, it's the best place for a young football player to fine tune his skills on and off the pitch," said the former Joeys star.

Throughout his life, Carl has had the help of his parents, who have guided him along his passage to overseas football. Carl's father, Walter, an ex Famous Australian soccer player and current ACT soccer chairman, has been one of his main influences in his soccer career. Not forgetting his mother and brother who have added that extra hand in helping their young star out in school and life all together. "My parents and brother

have been great, and I know they are really happy for me. It works both ways though, they'll be sad seeing me leave the house for the year, but they understand it's what I want to do in my life," said Valeri.

The Australian star, who has already made 14 National youth appearances for Australia, is looking towards furthering his international career by vying for an U20 spot this year. Valeri has had his brush of fame with the Socceroos, as the youngster was one of three new players (Ahmad Elrich & Brett Holman) apart of the squad that was to tour the Solomon Islands last year. "It was a camp for an up and coming match in the Solomon Islands, and I received a call saying I was in the Socceroo squad and had to go in camp. Alongside a few other younger boys. It was an amazing experience and the highlight of my career so far. Unfortunately, the Solomon Islands had a few problems and due to safety reasons, we were unable to travel to the country.

However, the experience of being there with professional soccer players who I've looked up to in the past was awesome. I'd really like to take that extra step, and the U20's is defiantly something I want to get into," said the future Socceroo star.

With so many young soccer players leaving our shores for greener pastures overseas, it was only time until FIFA introduced a plan in outlawing the recruitment of under age players. This law came into force mid last-year, many people have since either agreed or argued with it. Carl believes there are a pros and cons to this law, but youngsters will benefit from this. "I was affected by this law as this stopped me from going to Italy last year.

However, it was for the better as I trained full on with the AIS team and was up and about with the Australian



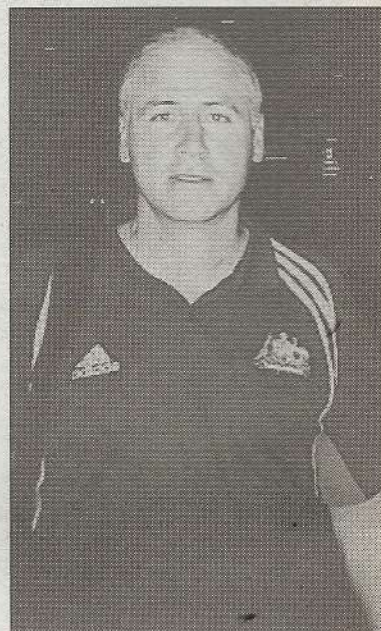
AIS Squad: Valeri's current squad.

side, so my experience in playing football at the highest level was put into more practice. In a way it's good for some players, and bad for others. Some young guys can't wait to jet overseas, others would rather bide their time, I believe it's up to the individual, but staying that extra year or two will work wonders for the player," said the AIS star.

At this stage, Valeri has a tight schedule, which will see him travel to Italy in April where he will spend a month acclimatizing to his newly adopted country. That month will see Carl train and play with Inter in various tournaments, and just like last year, will see him participate in the Gardisca tournament-only this time it's with a different team. Soon after his month in Italy, Valeri will arrive in Australia again, packing up all his luggage and then jetting off for good in late July, where the former Joey will officially turn 18 and start pre-season with the squad on a quest for a first grade contract.

The likes of Ronaldo, Recoba, Vieri and Di Biagio make up a number of star players in an already all-star line-up for

Inter Milan. Who knows, in a year or two we might even see an Australian product alongside them, Carl Valeri, a name that will defiantly feature in the future.



Steve O'Connor: AIS head coach.



Walter Valeri: Carl's father who he believes has been the main influence on his soccer career.

Wave of Good Fortune rides through SA

Continued from front page.

It is now thought Soccer Australia have secured the support of from FIFA president Sepp Blatter for Oceania's automatic World Cup qualification.

"My constant position has been that the current (Oceania qualification) situation is unfair and illogical and should be corrected as soon as possible" said Blatter in an official Soccer Australia release.

"Oceania has no entry into the World Cup. It should have entry and I will work on it. If Asia or Africa want another place they will have to work on the field of play and on the political side to find a strong argument for asking for an extra slot. "Much is expected of the Asian teams, who are playing at home (this World Cup). How they do will influence the allocation of places for the 2006 World Cup in Germany."

While Blatter says there is a need to ensure things are done as fairly as possible, he stressed he doesn't want that to happen at the expense of a poor tournament. "It is not easy to find the right balance, but don't forget the World Cup must be a quality competition," he said.

Oceania's chances of the direct entry place have also been boosted recently by the news that from now on the defending champion will have to qualify for the next tournament along with everyone else after previously being handed automatic entry.

Meanwhile, Soccer Australia received a much-needed boost with the Socceroos players agreeing to be paid

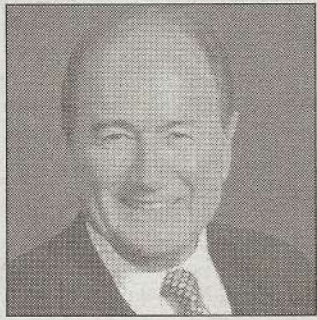
moneys they are owed - totalling \$360,000 - in three instalments to the end of April rather than one down payment immediately.

As part of the agreement the governing body paid the players 50 per cent of what they are owed on February 28, with a further 25 per cent to be paid at the end of March and the remainder at the end of April.

Chairman Ian Knop blamed the sudden rift between Soccer Australia and marketing partner IEC for the cash shortfall to the Socceroos that saw the warring parties head for mediation to resolve the dispute.

"We are owed a considerable amount by IEC and there's a link between that and the players not getting their money on time. IEC has said a lot about us and I've tried to follow suit but the fact is they owe us money."

However IEC's general manager



Sepp Blatter: FIFA President supporting Oceania's push for automatic entry to the World Cup.

Berti Mariani rebuked Knop's judgement claiming; "It's Soccer Australia's responsibility to play players not ours. As far as we're aware we don't owe Australia any money"

With debts of more than \$3 million and the players said to be owed \$20,000 each, Soccer Australia was forced to approach the Professional Footballers Association on bended knee asking for an extension to the deal brokered between the PFA and SA before the friendly with France and the two World Cup qualifiers with Uruguay.

The PFA headed by chief executive Eugene Buckley granted the financial reprieve to the governing body and acknowledged the efforts of his association in quelling what may result in a player revolt after SA failed the meet the initial deadline for the payment of \$360 000.

"The revised timeframes acknowledge Soccer Australia's financial position and again illustrates the contribution that the PFA and our champion players are willing to play to assist Soccer Australia in returning the governing body to a sound financial footing," Buckley said.

"The revised timeframes still ensure that player payments are met well in advance of the Socceroos' next scheduled game."

Australia are scheduled to compete in the upcoming Oceania Nations Cup in New Zealand in July, which is the qualifying tournament for the Confederations Cup held next year.

NEWS FLASH

Graham Arnold Joins Newcastle United

Former Socceroo Assistant coach Graham Arnold has become the new football consultant for Newcastle United.

United General Manager Jock Graham was pleased with the move as the club moves closer towards a semi-final berth. "The club is proud to have a person of Graham Arnold's calibre assisting the coaching staff at all levels as we enter the business end of the NSL season", said Graham.

United coach Ian Crook will no doubt benefit with the introduction of Arnold, as his experience at international level will only further the already quality coaching level at the club.

Arnold begins his Newcastle United experience this week.



Graham Arnold: Newcastle United football consultant.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CANCELLED AT SYDNEY OLYMPIC CLUB

Sydney Olympic Club's proposed Annual General Meeting was postponed last Sunday afternoon. The talks were halted after a discrepancy was found that in the 1993 club annual report, an inconsistency in figures was discovered. A new meeting will be organised in the near future to resolve the matter concerned in order to rectify the problem.



SUITE 1, 9 WILLIAM STREET,
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Sharks looking at keeping Strikers at bay

By Daniel Kuziow

Toyota Park will play host to the vital clash between two NSL high-flyers—the Olympic sharks and interstate rivals the Brisbane strikers.

Both teams are coming off wins from the previous weekend. The Sharks all but ended the charge of last year's champions the Wollongong Wolves when they recorded an impressive 2-1 victory with goals from Andrew Packer and Stephen Laybutt.

Brisbane meanwhile easily accounted for Adelaide City 3-0 with leading marksman Paul Foster again on target to notch up his 13th goal of the season.

Olympic boast a proud home



Gary Phillips: Sharks coach.

record with only one loss from nine starts and an even more impressive stat is that their defence have conceded a mere four goals—the best by any home team in the League.

The Strikers bring to Toyota

Park the third best away record of any team with four wins from nine matches and have scored nearly two goals a game on their road trips away.

In a battle that pits third and fourth, fans will be in for a soccering treat, with the defensive refinement of Gary Phillips' men up against the attacking flair of John Kosmina's charges.

At stake is not only three pre-

cious league points but with only four rounds remaining until the final series, it is a chance for both teams to pick up a valuable win against a fellow championship contender, that may just hold the edge for the ensuing victors in the cut-throat, do-or-die business end of the season, when these two teams will once again come up against each other.

Canterbury-Marrickville SOCCER CLUB



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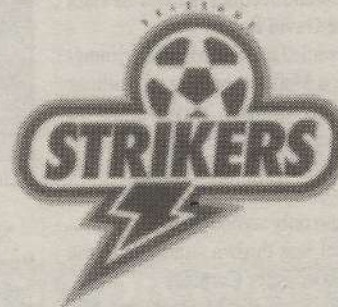


THIS SUNDAY

MARCH 10

AT THE

TOYOTA PARK



Kick-off: Main Game 6.00pm

(Youth League to be played Saturday March 9th)

(Olympic Sharks vs Q.A.S. Kick-off 4pm)

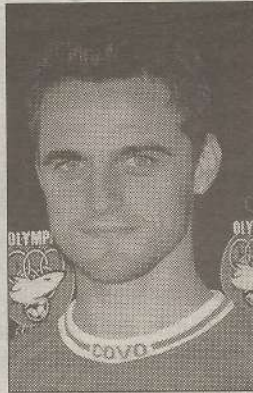
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Manager: Gary Phillips



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Paul Foster



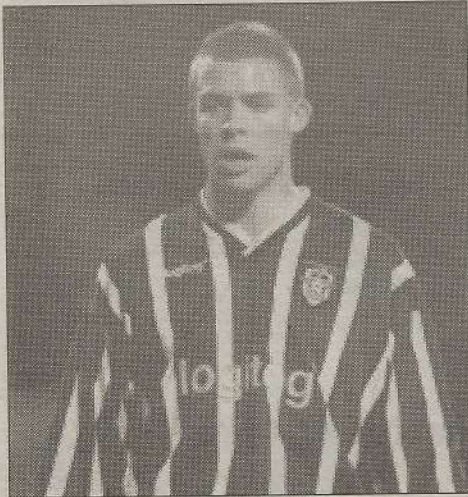
Fernando Rech



Manager: John Kosmina

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Australia's heading the way in the English Premier League



Danny Allsopp scored a hat-trick in Notts County's vital win over Tranmere Rovers.

With so many Australians based in England, it's little wonder how many times they seem to be in the English Press' headlines.

The recent wave of Premier League fixtures saw a few Aussies grab the spotlight as the lads yet again did their country proud.

West Ham had 20-year-old Richie Garcia as their star player, as the Aussie played a full 90 minutes in the Hammers 2-1 loss to Aston Villa.

The promising youngster, who recently signed a 2-year-deal with the club was involved in almost every Hammers attack and was unfortunate not to get on the score-sheet as his side slipped further from the leading pack in the Premier League.

Still at Upton Park, Hayden Foxe has been the subject of a loan move to First Division club Portsmouth.

Harry Redknapp, former West Ham manager, now Director of Coaching wants the Australian international on loan for the rest of the season with the view

of a permanent move in the summer.

Redknapp who brought Foxe to Upton Park from Sanfrecce Hiroshima while Irons manager is keen to regain the services of Foxe, who has proven his ability at Premiership level.

Meanwhile, Mark Schwarzer kept a clean sheet for Middlesbrough in their 1-0 relegation win against Leicester City. Brought back into the side after a spell out through poor form, the big' keeper twice denied new Foxes signing Paul Dickov and turned aside a second-half header from Muzzy Izzet to once again show the type of form that brought Schwarzer so many plaudits.

After missing Blackburn's Worthington Cup final victory because he was Cup-tied, Lucas Neill went straight back into the first team last night at right-back.

The Australia international was given a full 90 minutes by the Rovers boss in their 1-1 draw at Charlton, that saw the visitors playing with ten men for nearly

70 minutes after Andy Cole was sent off.

In lower league news, Notts County's gained an important win over the more fancied Tranmere Rovers, thanks to hat-trick from former South Melbourne hero Danny Allsopp.

"It was a good day for us today, a great result. Of course it was nice to get the hat-trick, but the three points are more pleasing. The third goal was a little lucky, I was actually trying to cross it in but I was very happy to see it drop into the net" said a delighted Allsopp who was in good spirits after the game.

"Hopefully today's result can be a turning point. Our performances have been steadily improving and I think this result has been coming for a while. We've been better than results have suggested, and we certainly deserved the three points today. Now we need to build on the result and take it into Tuesday's game against Peterborough."

Scottish success for Robertson and Maisano

In the fast paced league of the Scottish Premier League, Mark Robertson had an outstanding game for Dundee in their 3-2 defeat by Kilmarnock.

The Australia international was handed a full 90 minutes by boss Ivano Bonetti and turned in a tigerish display in the heart of the Dundee midfield.

Robertson had a running battle for much of the game with Killie's Garry Hay, while he created Temuri Ketsbaia's second-half strike after winning a crucial tackle and feeding the ball to Dark Blues ace Gavin Rae.

Meanwhile, former Marconi youngster Marco Maisano-brother of Stallions striker John Maisano- played a full 90 minutes and helped Morton win a point against Second Division rivals Stranraer.

Maisano only signed for the club yesterday, but was thrown straight into the team by boss Peter Cormack.

Playing alongside Maisano was former Carlton defender and now Morton assistant, Dave McPherson.

Fractured finger forces gloveman out for up to six weeks.



Mark Robertson: Continuing to impress at Dundee.

Northern Spirit's inform goalkeeper Paul Henderson is set to miss up to six weeks after injuring his finger in a training mishap.

The 25-year-old had begun the season as the club's number two custodian but after a string of fine performances has forced his way into the starting line-

up of the North Sydney based club.

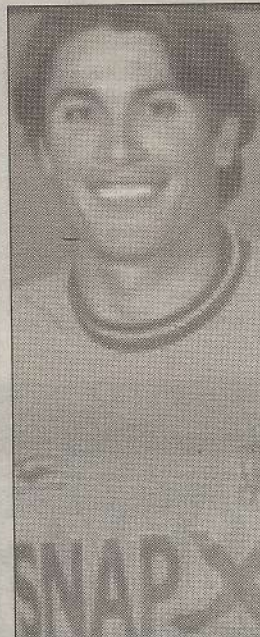
Lupce Acevski will move in between the sticks while young Australian goalkeeper Jacob Rex will guard the bench as reserve keeper.

Speaking on Hendo's unlucky break, Spirit coach Mick Hickman said, "It is very unfortunate for him (Henderson) because he's been doing well for us over the last few matches. He copped a ball on the end of the finger at training and it dislocated and fractured.

While obviously disappointed at having his number one out for a possible six weeks, Hickman is still confident that Acevski will keep clean sheets for the Spirit. "Louie is not afraid of the big occasions he has trained very well while Hendo has been in the side and now it's his turn to be the number one".

Northern Spirit are currently clinging to sixth spot in the NSL and will no doubt stay in finals contention if their recent run of form continues.

With Acevski in between the sticks until what looks like the end of March, the Spirit should be able to consolidate their position in the run up to the final time.



Spirit's Paul Henderson could be out until late March.

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Lupce Acevski will move

Fractured finger forces gloveman out for up to six weeks

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ABC-TV's Classic Series- "HISTORY OF FOOTBALL"

As from tomorrow night, (Wednesday), ABC-TV will screen a classic collection made up of a 13 part series on the 'History Of Football'.

Superbly hosted and narrated by high-profiled British actor Terence Stamp, this brilliant series vividly highlights the game of Soccer which generates more excitement, passion and wealth across the World than any single other sport on the planet.

For the next 13 consecutive Wednesday nights, all starting at 11pm, ABC-TV will unfold classic episodes that will have the ardent (even the not so ardent), Soccer viewer glued to his lounge.

Tomorrow night (March 6th), the 'History Of Football' kicks off with the special episode tagged "Superstars".

"Superstars" includes rare footage that have recorded some of the super-heroic deeds of a galaxy of star 'immortals' of Soccer such as Meredith, Sindelar, Puskas, di Stefano,

Garrincha, Pele, Beckenbauer, Maradona and Zidane to name a few.

This magnificent episode unquestionably also illustrates how two players, (Garrincha and Maradona), almost single handedly won South American World Cups for their respective nations, Brazil 1962 and Argentina 1986.

Despite these two incredible South American super stars having embossed their names in Soccer history, both had their personal lives tragically struck by either alcohol or drugs. In fact it was alcohol that ultimately ended the life of the fabulous Garrincha.

In the coming weeks, (all on Wednesday nights), ABC-TV will screen episodes that will include clips on other greats such as di Stefano, Georgie Best, Bobby Charlton, even highlights of the great Hungarian team of 1953.

All episodes are studded with a multitude of interviews of legends in Soccer.

Don't miss this series.



Pele: The greatest Brazilian of all.



After trials in Norway, Con Blatsis moved to Colchester United.

Australian U23 International defender Con Blatsis continues in his attempt to rebuild his European profession this time at Second Division English outfit Colchester United and looks set to be offered a contract by boss Steve Whitton after he impressed for the reserves against Luton.

The move comes after the former South Melbourne star failed to win a

deal at Norway's Lillestrom.

Blatsis had spent the past fortnight with LSK was ousted out of a deal after club officials chose to sign fellow centre half Frode Kippe from Liverpool ahead of the Aussie.

The former Derby defender has been training at Layer Road for the past week and completed a full 90 minutes for the reserves at Kenilworth Road yesterday.

Blatsis has impressed U's supreme

Whitton and his reserve team boss Geraint Williams with his commitment and attitude, and with the first team struggling at the back in recent weeks, he would be a valuable addition to the Colchester playing staff.

The player himself has expressed his desire to join the club so Whitton is likely to sit down with the Australian and his agent later this week to discuss terms.



Journey continues for Blatsis as he joins Colchester for trials

Matthew Engele Wins Academic Award At The AIS

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT

By Mark Stavroulakis

17-year-old former AIS graduate Matthew Engele received an education award at last week's annual AIS award ceremony in Canberra.

Held at the famous institute, the honours for AIS athlete of the year and team of the year were of course the big highlights, however, in a first for quite some time, soccer was recognized at the AIS through academic excellence.

Young Matthew was apart of the AIS set up for almost 2 years, where he spent playing soccer and juggling school at the same time. Like so many players in the current AIS soccer squad, school is compulsory under the AIS scholarship rule.

Matthew had excelled in the recent HSC, where he attained top marks that gave the youngster a name not only as a soccer player, but as a top

academic student as well.

Late January this year, Engele was signed and sealed by Italian Serie A club Chievo Verona. The striker jetted off in search of a top soccer career with one of Italy's newest and most exciting clubs.

Chievo renowned for being the surprise packet of the Serie A this season, first showed interest in the youngster at an



Matthew Engele: Received an education award at the AIS.

Italian tournament held last year. Since then, the club had kept a close eye on the former U17 Australian international,

and finally selected him shortly after the U17 World Cup in Trinidad & Tobago.

Currently playing in the Primavera side, Engele will be looking forward to his 3-year deal, where he will be amongst the worlds best in terms of football.

Unfortunately Matthew was unable to accept the award, but nevertheless has set a prime example to many young promising soccer stars out there, that mixing school with soccer and achieving good results is possible.

With so many young stars leaving school at an early age pursuing their soccer careers, sometimes they seem to forget that mishaps may happen in their way to the top. Having passed academically at school will offer them with an incentive in case something was to happen.

Overall, a great achievement for Matthew and a huge boast for soccer at the AIS.

During the next month, the Institute will be going overseas for an annual tournament held in Italy, details will be explained in forth coming soccer weekly editions.



Kenny Dalglish: Scottish legend heading to Melbourne.

Soccer Legend Comes To Melbourne

One of the greatest names in world football, Kenny Dalglish, will be in Melbourne next week to launch Proactive Sports Management Australia.

Dalglish, who has a record 102 caps for Scotland, became a legend of the game nearly two decades ago as a player with Liverpool and Celtic, winning European Cups, FA Cups and League Championships.

Kenny is presently the Director of Football Operations for the highly respected Proactive Sports Group PLC, a London stockmarket listed company.

Accompanying Kenny will be Paul Stretford who is the founder and CEO of Proactive Sports Group PLC.

Paul's clients include Peter Schmeichel, Andy Cole, John Gregory, Kevin Campbell, Claudio Reyna and many English Premier League Stars. Most notably Paul was responsible for the UK record transfers of Stan Collymore to Liverpool and Andy Cole to Manchester United.

Dalglish is no doubt renowned as one of Scotland's greatest players, having him in the country should hopefully lift the profile of the code.

2002 WORLD CUP TOURS

International Sports Tours have released a wide range of supporter tours to see the stars of the 2002 World Cup in Korea and Japan.

A 10 day "Korean Experience" is only \$3950 including airfares, accommodation, transfers, sightseeing and match tickets to witness 3 great games involving Brazil v Turkey, France v Uruguay and Spain v Paraguay.

In addition there are specific team supporters tours following your country of choice in Korea for up to 15 days. The tours attend the opening 3 matches

of Poland, Turkey, China, Uruguay and now Portugal. Tour prices are very affordable and packaged to include airfares, accommodation, transfers and match tickets.

Irish supporters travel to Japan visiting Osaka, Niigata and Tokyo for their Cup ties with Cameroon, Germany and Saudi Arabia.

Departing on 14th June we have a 11 day tour to Korea to see the second stage matches at Suwon and Daejeon and then off to Ulsan for the quarter final — keen judges say this could be Italy's

march to the final???

Bruce Tilt at International Sports Tours is well known in soccer circles and always keen to discuss your World Cup Tour but vacancies are limited and once full the tours cannot be extended.

Clubs are encouraged to also contact Bruce and discuss special incentive arrangements for their travelling supporters.

For further information... International Sports Tours Phone 02 - 9922 6166 or Toll Free 1800 242 987.

JUDSON FAILS TO IMPRESS

By Richard Kreider

Perth Glory has trialed a number of Brazilians during their time, but as yet none of the South American hopefuls have been able to put their signature on a Glory contract other than Edgar Junior in 1999 and striker Aurelio Schwartz the following year.



Jason Petkovic: Signed for a further four years at the Glory.

The most recent to try his luck is 21-year old Judson De Oliveira Morales who turned up for trials at the beginning of last week from Rio De Janeiro but the central defender has yet to impress Glory coach Mich d'Avray.

'Judson' was brought to Perth by recommendation of Edgar's manager although it appears he is not going to be as fortunate as the midfield maestro.

He was to have played last Sunday in the Midland Brick Night Series for Future Glory so d'Avray could see the player match active, but he was not cleared to play in time.

Meanwhile, Kostadin Manolev created a little piece of history by scoring the first goal for the Future club in a 4-0 hiding of Cockburn City at Litis Stadium.

The other scorers were Mileta Miletic with a double and Glory midfielder Michael Garcia.

Jason Petkovic, arguably the best goalkeeper in the National Soccer League, last week signed for a further four years with the Glory.

His brother Michael Petkovic, who is equally adept between the sticks, was tipped by certain areas of the media to leave South Melbourne and join the Perth side had Jason decided to depart for an overseas club.

But the move was never going to eventuate since Jason was happy to extend his contract. However, the Soccerroo has still expressed a desire to play overseas one day.

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National Soccer League

Marconi Stallions Parramatta Power

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By Joe Russo

Just when it seemed that the season was over for Marconi Stallions, they bounce back with a thundering victory at home to convince their faithful supporters that all is not lost yet.

Parramatta Power were the victims of a Royce Brownlie hat trick that sent shock waves through their campaign for a finals birth. It was surprising that the Power, who were already in a Top 6 place going into the game, would allow Marconi to win so convincingly.

However, for the Stallions, it means that they now have a realistic chance of making the finals. A loss or even a draw against the Power would have spelt the end of any hopes they still had.

Marconi coach Lee Sterrey would have been delighted with his team's efforts and in particular with Brownlie. Now he realises that his team's own destiny, with five games to play, is entirely up to his own team. They must win at least four of those games to be secure of a finals place.

However, Power coach David Mitchell will have had to be informed by phone of his team's result. Mitchell is currently in The Netherlands pursuing talks, with Feyenoord.

Stuart Munro and Lawrie McKinna, the assistant coaches, are deputising for Mitchell while he is away. It seems a far-fetched decision by a club to allow their coach to go overseas at such a crucial time in the season.

However, the Power have only themselves to blame. Mitchell was already told months ago that he has no future with the

club. To add insult to injury his successor, Nick Theodorakopoulos, has already been announced. A little more diplomacy perhaps from the Power could have been expected.

Brownlie's first goal came in the 40th minute when he managed to head into the open net after a Marconi corner. It seemed a travesty of justice at that point because the Power were certainly looking the better side up until then.

In the second half Marconi scored twice more. In the 55th minute a John Maisano shot was blocked by the Power's defence and Brownlie was lucky enough to be in the right spot at the right time. He made no mistake with his shot and Marconi were ahead by two goals.

Brownlie's hat trick arrived in the 57th minute after Power goalkeeper, Liam Reddy, had blocked another Maisano shot and Brownlie was ready to pounce on the rebound. It was three nil and the Power had no way back any more.

In the 80th minute to compound the Power's already miserable night, Reddy was sent off after bringing down Marconi's Norman Tome outside his penalty box.



Royce Brownlie: The Stallions star grabbed a hat-trick that gave new life to the Stallions finals hopes.

Auckland Kingz Newcastle United

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By Stuart Jones

Melbourne Knights substitute Xhezair Sulemani was the star in New Zealand on Friday night as he came off the bench to score a brace of goals to give his side a 2-1 victory over the Football Kingz.

This result coupled with others from around the league this weekend gave the Knights a solid grip on their top six position.

For the Kingz it was another story of missed opportunities. Although things started slowly for the Kingz, with mainly long range shooting, all too often evident in the NSL these days, the Kingz dominated the midfield in the first period and finally in the 33rd minute got their reward.



Andrew Marth: Player Manager Marth led the Knights to victory in Auckland.

The golden opportunity landed on the head of leading Kingz marksman Paul Urlovic but he saw his header from just three metres out cleared off the line by the Knights defence.

The chance had come from an Andy Vlahos corner which had been headed across the face of goal at the near post by Jonathan Perry.

The Knights had had a chance of their own just minutes previous on the half hour but Toto Da Costa's lob was tipped over the bar by Kingz custodian Michael Theoklitis.

It was the second stanza that saw the scoreboard attendant actually have to do some work. Against a backdrop of strong wind and rain the visitors played strongly although they did see their opponents come close to scoring with Urlovic again laying waste to a couple of strong chances for the Kingz to go a goal up.

Come the 58th minute and Sulemani came on for Ivo De Jesus. Five minutes later he was on the scoresheet as he successfully converted an Anthony Pelikan cross. Sulemani doubled his personal, and his team's total, tally of goals six minutes later when he finally put away one of the many long shots attempted on the night, this one from 30 metres.

On a dark night the Kingz saw some light when former Kingz captain Harry Ngata headed home from a Jeff Campbell corner in the 83rd minute.

However the League's cellar dwellers were unable to score again and so went down for the 11th time this season.

For the Knights it was another great result away from home and despite having the bye still to come their run in to the finals looks pretty good with matches against Sydney United, Wollongong, Spirit and Parramatta.

The Kingz take on Northern Spirit at North Sydney Oval on Friday night (kick off 7.30pm) in what is a must win match for the Sydneysiders.

Newcastle United South Melbourne

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By Pano Tagaroulis

A healthy crowd of 8,958 was on hand to witness an encounter that promised to shape the final six.

South Melbourne who had enjoyed a recent run of excellent performances was looking to continue the away form they displayed against the Power last Saturday.

Newcastle United was primed to prove the punters wrong (again), which have constantly written off the Red & Blues as a title aspirant. Their artillery stocks had been greatly increased through the week with the arrival of Brazilian maestro Alex Moreira.

The sound of the Samba rhythm would compliment the potential for a high skilled affair with Paul Trimboli and company in a hot streak. In the 2nd minute a searching long ball from Michael Prentice was allowed to bounce by the South's defence, allowing Esala Masi to get a head to the ball.

The ball cleared the pack and was gathered by Michael Petkovic.

In the 14th minute a Paul Trimboli chip was headed over his own goal by Scott Baillie, who seemed to have expected his keeper to come for the ball.

A typical precision pass from South Melbourne's resident magician and captain in the 17th minute, found Vaughan Coveny on the move.

His run seemed to have caught the united defence flat footed. Michael Prentice fouled the advancing Kiwi International, setting up an opportunity for the now expected Con Boutsianis set piece brilliance. It failed to materialize resulting in the effort clearing the bar.

In the 30th minute some excellent interplay between Milan Blagojevic and Peter Tsekenis led to a pass that released Scott Baillie at pace. Scott Baillie beat the first defender and sent a

right footed pile driver from 22 meters just wide of Petkovic's goal.

A near South Melbourne disaster on 31 minutes may have sent the home side one up, when Fausto De Amicic gave the ball away to Esala Masi on the edge of the box.

Masi played the ball to a mobile Robbie Middleby who cut the ball back for the Fijian International to drill the ball into a South Melbourne defender.



Eddie Krncevic: South Melbourne coach currently leading his side through an unbeaten run.

In the 42nd minute a Joseph Schirripa cross-found an unmarked Esala Masi on the far post having slightly overrun the cross. The header back across the South Melbourne defence failed to find a United player.

The second half commenced in a similar vein with both teams putting together some exciting interplay that had not translated into clear-cut opportunities for either side.

On 52 Paul Trimboli dispossessed Milan Blagojevic 40 meters out. He drew the United defence and chipped the ball wide of the last defender allow-

ing Vaughan Coveny a shot from 10 meters that hit a scramble of United players close to the line. The rebound fell to Con Boutsianis on an angle. He hammered the ball into Scott Baillie inches from the line.

As United seemed to be recovering from the near miss, Chris Zoricich played one of his typical killer long balls to a rampaging Esala Masi. The touch however did not do the pass justice and the expected instant response from Michael Petkovic diffused the situation.

On 55 minutes Robbie Middleby received the ball moving forward on the right flank. He cut in and shot wide of Petkovic's right upright from the angle of the 18-yard box.

Paul Trimboli provided another pass on 57 for Vaughan Coveny, who took a touch and shot over the cross bar.

In the 64th minute Con Boutsianis sent a typical whipped corner over for Steve Panopoulos to send a looping header toward goal that beat Daniel Beltrame. The Newcastle captain Matthew Bingley was on hand to head off the line. The ball made it as far as Patrick Kisnorbo who headed into Daniel Beltrame.

On 69 minutes the United crowd was given its first taste of it's new South American star. Alex Moreira came on for Daniel McBreen.

A near mix up by an advancing Daniel Beltrame was nearly converted by Fausto De Amicic on the far post on 78 minutes.

Ian Crook used his trusted replacement strategy in pursuit of a goal by introducing Travis Dodd in the 83rd minute for Joseph Schirripa.

Half chances continued to occur in both halves.

In the 85th minute Con Boutsianis failed to convert another set piece from 30 meters.

Travis Dodd ran at the South's defence in the 87th minute and slipped a pass to Peter Tsekenis. The midfielder delayed a pass to Esala Masi sufficiently to draw the South's defender. The Fijian would have been unhappy with his strike that cleared Petkovic's crossbar by some meters.

Points shared was probably a fair outcome, however the pick of the chances did fall to South Melbourne.

National Soccer League

Brisbane Strikers Adelaide City Force

By Glenn Davis

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Brisbane Strikers remain in a three-way shootout with rivals Newcastle United and Olympic Sharks for the coveted second position in the national league following a 3-0 win over Adelaide City Force at Ballymore on Friday night.

The Strikers, who remain equal third but fourth with an inferior goal difference, looked well in control going to the break with a commanding 2-0 lead before super-sub Michael Baird popped up late in the game to put the visitors out of their misery.

The win was a satisfying result for coach John Kosmina who later described the game as "troppo season".

"The conditions were hot and depressive and it was a bit of a troppo season game," Kosmina said.

"It showed up for both sides as we made some very ordinary decisions and it

was disappointing to let them back into the game for 15 minutes or so."

Kosmina was thankful teenage sensation Matt McKay recovered quickly to finish the game after hurting an ankle midway through the second half and would be fit for the much-awaited clash with Olympic Sharks in Sydney on Sunday.

The Strikers, board, headed by Ross Melville and former Brisbane Lord Mayor Clem Jones, signalled just how important the Sharks match has become by sending the side south a day earlier to prepare.

"We normally travel down on the day but the board's decision to go a day earlier is fantastic," Kosmina said.

"After the Sharks we come home and then have to go back for the Wollongong game the following Friday which means we'll travel to Sydney twice in five days.

"It won't be easy but these are two vital games and it's good we can go a day earlier now."

Before the Adelaide match, Kosmina gave the Strikers a mission of securing ten points from a possible 18 to ensure a decent position in the Top Six.

Although missing skipper Stu McLaren, who pulled out with a bout of 'flu, the Strikers were rarely troubled by the once-feared Adelaide City.

Adelaide, which is yet to win away from home this season, have been going through a rebuilding stage over the past two seasons and are in serious danger of finishing the season with the wooden spoon.

The Strikers grabbed the early initiative in the 10th minute courtesy of an own goal from Adelaide defender Kristian Rees.

The early setback for the visitors came after Strikers' Lawrence Drake fired in a dangerous cross into the box for Brazilian Fernando Rech.

Unfortunately for Adelaide, the ball never found its destination with Rees diving in low to head into his own net next to the upright past a stranded keeper Daniel Godley.

The early goal was just the tonic for the Strikers as they quickly settled into a rhythm, which constantly found openings in the leaky Adelaide defence.

The Strikers had several near chances to extend their lead before halftime but had to rely on Perth referee Angelo

Naardi to go in at the break with a two goal advantage.

Strikers' leading scorer Paul Foster notched his 13th goal of the season from the penalty spot in the 39th minute after Naardi ruled an Adelaide defender hand-balled a goal-bound header from Foster in a goal mouth scramble.

The Strikers' drove the final nail in Adelaide's coffin nine minutes from time when Baird, tapped home from close range after being on the park only three minutes following his substitution of Foster.

Adelaide were not without their chances with midfielder Aaron Goulding blasting a 20 metre shot which brought a superb diving save by Strikers' keeper Jason Kearton in the 62nd minute.

Four minutes later the Strikers' defence was caught napping giving Adelaide's Matthew Kemp a free header that sailed just past the upright.



Kirsten Rees (Adelaide City) battles with Michael Baird (Brisbane Strikers) at Ballymore.

Perth Glory Northern Spirit

By Richard Kreider

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Perth Glory have 15,000 reasons to smile following their almost effortless yet entertaining 3-0 victory over Northern Spirit at Perth Oval last Saturday night; a result which has put them twelve points ahead of second placed Newcastle United and a game in hand.

A double from Glory's scoring machine Damian Mori included a goal inside the opening 20 seconds while Bobby Despotovski netted the team's third from the penalty spot and in doing so, created his own niche in the NSL history books by scoring the competition's 15,000th goal.

The Perth side now need just three points from their remaining five fixtures to be assured of a

second Minor Premiership in only their sixth season.

Spirit midfielder Robbie Enes will not forget his 150th NSL appearance in a hurry, after receiving his marching orders mid-way through the second-half, from Eddie Lennie, who ironically was officiating in his 150th NSL game.

"I thought it was a superb performance," said a delighted Perth coach Mich d'Avray. "We obviously got off to a flying start which put them on the back foot and I don't think they recovered from that," he said. We went from strength to strength from then on and the second goal virtually killed off the game."

"We were good for ninety minutes tonight. If we can reproduce that (in the playoffs), we will take some stopping," said d'Avray.

"It's always easy when you go one-up early in the game because it sets the tempo," said Damian Mori. Most teams that come here sit behind the ball and play a counter-attacking brand of football. But when they go a goal behind so early, they have to play a more openly, which is good for the spectators," said Mori.

Spirit boss Mick Hickman said his boys had looked forward to playing in Perth, but admitted his charges were deflated following the early setback.

Played in muggy conditions, Glory tore out of the blocks from the opening whistle and a forward pass from Edgar to Mori on the edge of the box, saw the champion net-buster suddenly cut inside and shoot on goal. Goalkeeper Lupce

Acevski, who was standing in for the injured Paul Henderson, failed to gather the tame strike cleanly and allowed it to bobble over his body and into the far side of the goal - after just 18 seconds of play.

Glory then took a stranglehold on the match and never relented until the final whistle. Such was their dominance, Glory goalkeeper Jason Petkovic was hardly ever really tested across the ninety minutes, apart from watching a powerful strike by Pablo Cardozo rattle his left-hand upright in the 5th minute.

Brad Maloney had the next opportunities to put Glory further ahead when he drilled a rising missile onto the crossbar after twenty minutes and then directed a header over the top four minutes further on.

Two minutes into the second period, Acevski went a long way to redeeming himself for fluffing the early goal when he pulled off a breathtaking save to a solid header from Perth defender Jamie Harnwell that was heading for the top right-hand corner of the target.

He was beaten however, in the 64th minute following some quick thinking from Despotovski after the striker was up-ended. In virtually the same movement while he was picking himself up off the ground, he tapped the ball into the path of Mori, who ran goal wards and stabbed the ball into the net, despite the close attention of defender Simon Bell.

Despotovski himself, got on the scoresheet four minutes later when he easily converted a spot-kick after Marcus Stergiopoulos climbed all over Maloney inside the penalty area. Substitute Nick Mrdja came close to adding to Perth's already healthy tally a minute into stoppage time with a fierce long-range left-footed effort that was superbly palmed away by the visitor's agile custodian.



Damian Mori: Scored a double for the Glory and notched up his 16th goal of the season.

Wollongong Wolves Olympic Sharks

By Otto Bader

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Entertaining, action in front of goal, ball skills on show - in general a game worth watching.

The Sharks were far too classy in the first half and showed great composure to stop any well meaning attack by the home team.

Olympic opened the scoring in the 17th minute when explosive forward Hiroyuki Ishida - an import from Japan - outpaced the home defence and crossed a ball over.

It rebounding off the keeper and fell for the waiting Andrew Packer to tap in.

To their credit the Wolves did not drop their heads and kept coming at the solid Sharks defence. Young Dustin Wells missed a certain sitter in the 33rd minute due to hasty execution.

In the 34th minute a pinpoint corner once more by the Japanese striker found the head of defender Stephen Laybutt - a former Wollongong lad - who was allowed a free passage to goal for a 2-0 lead.

The second half started with the Wolves driving forward to salvage something from the game, exposing their defence at times. The Sharks had four opportunities goals to score with one-on-one situations, only the Wolves keeper to beat, they could have walked the ball into the net as someone remarked.

The home team did well to survive and it took until the 79th minute for the Wolves to score through Dustin Wells, his first goal in NSL a proud moment for the 18-year-old still developing player.

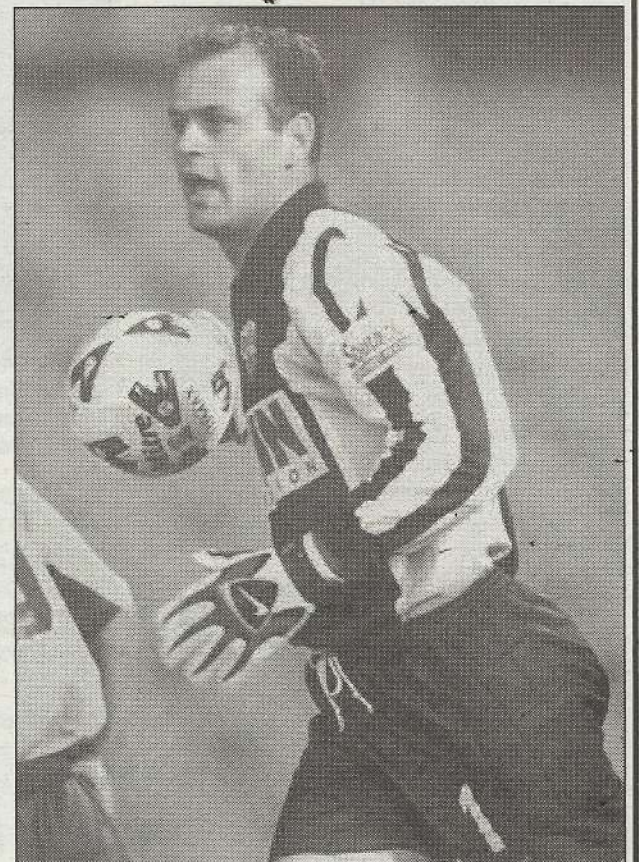
From there on it was on for old

and young as the saying goes, the Wolves threw everything forward and Olympic showed some panic at times but held out for the points.

Once more the Wolves keeper had to race out of his goal area to intercept several dangerous break-

admitted the supremacy of the Sharks on the day and was secretly hoping at the break that perhaps a draw could be achieved.

His side allowed two "soft" goals even though the Olympic team did dominate and played well. With the pressure off making the play-offs the Wolves coach looks at a possible reshuffle of the team, using youngsters knocking on the door for first grade with the possibility of several regulars moving on if they do decide not to



Dean Anastasiadis: Wolves custodian made a number of goal-line saves.

aways by the visitors and towards the final minute with the Wolves taking a corner the keeper race right up to the opposition area trying to head the ball into the net - he was lucky the Sharks did not use the chance to punch a long ball forward towards an empty goal.

Wolves coach Ron Corry

resign with the Wolves soon.

Gary Phillips, the Olympic Sharks coach commented on the lack of depth and injuries made it hard to find replacements to play out the full 90 minutes at full steam and though his side were brilliant in the first half.

NSW Institute Of Sport Off To Europe

Sport



By Mark Stavroulakis

The NSW Institute of Sport is embarking on a trip of life-time as a squad of 18 future stars take the trek to Europe.

Led by NSWIS maestro Kelly Cross, the boys will use this experience to further develop their skills, and is also a good chance to compare themselves with European players.

Background:

The NSW Institute of Sport has been responsible for helping to develop some of Australia's best soccer players. No other program in this country has produced more Australian Under-17 Internationals, indeed seven NSWIS boys were members of the famous-1999 Joeys that reached the World Cup Final against Brazil. Last year, eight NSWIS graduates represented Australia at Under-17 level.

Harry Kewell and Brett Emerton, current Socceroos and overseas stars, were also members of the program back in 1993-1995 when it was known as the NSW Academy of Sport.

The NSWIS program is an intensive training and competition environment designed to prepare the cream of this state's talented youngsters for National Team Representation and professional soccer. Many of the program's graduates are playing overseas or with National League clubs.

Aims:

In order to provide the squad with the best possible preparation, international competition is required.

This tour is designed to give our players competitive experience against some of the best club sides from three European countries (Holland, Germany and Belgium)

While on tour, the boys will be exposed to top-class professional football by attending matches in Germany and Holland.

Organisation:

From our hotel base in Roermond, Southern Holland we will be within easy reach of all our games in three countries as both the



Kelly Cross: Head NSWIS coach taking his side to Europe.

German and Belgian borders are about 20 km away.

Travelling party:

Head Coach: Kelly Cross
Assistant Coach: George Fallah
Trainer/Gear: Tom Haythornthwaite

NAME

Jason BROWNE
Lachlan CAHILL
Brody CRANE
Kieran DEANE
Bruce DJITE
Nathan HUGHES
Jason KOCHOU
Mauricio KORNER
Glenn LITTLEBURY
Philip MAKRYIS
John MANSUETO
Angelo MARTINO

HOME CLUB

Olympic Sharks
Olympic Sharks
Blacktown City
Olympic Sharks
Northern Spirit
Northern Spirit
Marconi
Northern Spirit
Blacktown City
Olympic Sharks
Blacktown City
Blacktown City



Jacob Timpano: Current NSWIS star who has already represented Australia at U17 level, one player billed for a huge future.

Daniel McDONALD	Olympic Sharks
Michael MOUYIS	Northern Spirit
Erik PAARTALU	Northern Spirit
Christian SENCION	Marconi
Jacob TIMPANO	Wollongong Wolves
Joel VASQUEZ	Olympic Sharks

Tour Program:

The Squad will be competing against club sides from Holland, Germany and Belgium.

HOLLAND

Feyenoord
VVV Venlo
Willem II

GERMANY

Bayer Leverkusen
Borussia Monchengladbach
Alemania Aachen



Harry Kewell: Past NSWIS graduate.

BELGIUM

Racing Genk

The NSWIS squad will play against their own age group, except against Alemania Aachen U-18s, which makes a change from the National Youth League competition NSWIS plays in, where they are up against players on average four years older.

'This will tell us where we are in comparison with some of the top players in Europe of this age-group' said Head Coach Kelly Cross, 'and I expect us to compare favourably.'

We took a squad to a tournament in Italy last year, and although half our team were a year or even two years younger we drew 2-2 with Bologna, 1-1 with Atletico Bilbao and only lost 2-1 to the Slovenian National Team, who ended up winning the tournament. Four of our squad have already represented Australia at U-16 level and there are others coming through the ranks to push for a spot in next year's Joeys.'

What else will the boys learn on this trip?

'This kind of tour prepares them for National Team duty. They have to learn to

cope with long flights, jetlag, different climates to ours, different foods, playing games where neither the opponents nor the referee speaks the same language as you.

We will also encounter different styles of football over there, not to mention the conditions — I don't think we'll find any hard grounds in Europe in March! One of the most difficult things, also, is coping with long periods in hotels or on buses.

You have to remember that this is not a sightseeing trip. There are times when the boys have to put their feet up and relax in their rooms, recovering between games, and that's sometimes hard for players to put up with. This kind of experience prepares them for all that.'

What do your base your tour protocol on?

'I was lucky enough to be Assistant U-17 National Coach for over two years, and saw first-hand how professionally things have to be run.

Les Scheinflug taught me a lot, and not many people have the international experience that he does. I try to treat our boys the same as National Team players, and I expect them to behave like National Team players.'



NSWIS: Current Squad

Brett Hughes signs with The Sharks

By Mark Stavroulakis

The Olympic Sharks have dug into the transfer market again, this time signing veteran goalkeeper Brett Hughes.

Hughes, a former Wollongong, Marconi and Sydney United custodian has signed till the end of the National League season with the



Sharks.

Coach Garry Phillips believes the inclusion of Hughes will further strengthen the squad as a whole. "Brett is a great keeper and will be used as Clint Bolton's replacement if injuries and suspensions occur. He has a wealth of experience and no doubt will add an incentive to an already good squad," said the Sharks manager.

The Sharks, who more recently bought Ante Milicic, the second biggest transfer in Australian soccer history, will surely benefit with the inclusion of Hughes.

Known for his wacky saves, and his never say die attitude, Hughes

will no doubt bring more character to a young and talented squad.

Sharks current keeper Clint Bolton has in his past seasons with the Sharks, kept the side at a bay with a number of quality saves that have earned him the respect of being one of the best keepers in Australia.

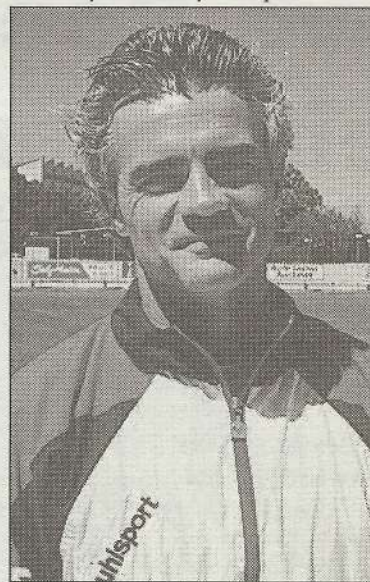
Having two quality keepers in a squad will only strengthen the whole team, and with the calibre of Bolton and Hughes together, it surely is a great thing to have.

In other Shark news, Japanese import Hiro Ishidia has had his contract extended till the remainder of the year. The crafty midfielder had originally signed on a three-month trial, but many people saw more than three months in Ishidia, especially coach Phillips. "Hiro is a great player with good touches and will no doubt be an asset to the club for this season. With Lindsay Wilson leaving us at the end of the year, Hiro could be his possible replacement," said Phillips.

Lindsay Wilson only recently signed a 5-year deal with Dutch giants PSV Eindhoven, will no doubt be sorely missed by the Olympic faithful, but it was only time until a

player of his quality was sent overseas.

With just under five matches to go until the seasons end, the Sharks will be looking for a top two spot to further their chances in winning that vital National League championship that has eluded the club for more than 12 years. Garry Phillips believes

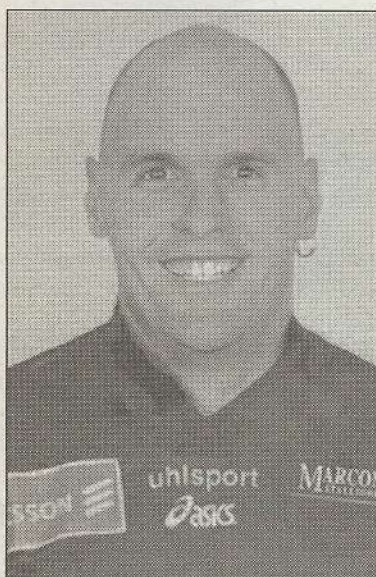


Garry Phillips: Believes with consistent results, and an injury free run until the end of the season, could be enough to win them the competition.



Clint Bolton: Olympic's number one under the sticks.

the side can do it, it's just a matter of keeping consistent and injury free until the end of the season. "Our aim is to catch second spot, if we can do that then we have a huge chance of winning the title. We need to be consistent, winning matches is a must if we are to get that vital second spot. Also we have to hope and pray we stay injury free, I want all my players to feature in every match," said Garry.



Brett Hughes: Signed as a back-up for Bolton.

Newcastle United Swoop to sign Alex Moreira



By Daniel Kuziow

Newcastle United have gained the services of Alex Moriera from Adelaide City, snapping him up in a deal within 24 hours of the striker's call for a move to a bigger club.

In an exclusive to tribalfutbol.com Moriera said, "I'm delighted, but a little taken aback by the speed of the deal."

"This is like a dream come true for me. Newcastle pulled over 10 000 fans last week and its always been my ambition to play for a club the size of Newcastle's. I'm really looking forward to pulling on a Newcastle jersey and the chance to work for my former Northern Spirit team mate Ian Crook was just too good an opportunity to pass up."

Moriera's FIFA agent Lou Sticca also said: "It really is a fantastic move for Alex. They wanted Alex and made sure they got him. Deals like this sometimes get caught up in the minor details, but Newcastle didn't mess about and I'm

delighted for the club and Alex".

With the inclusion of Moriera, United's strike force will only further strengthen the squad just before the finals. United star striker Joel Griffiths will be returning home from his overseas trials in Sweden but will face disciplinary action from a recent match. With Joel's absence, it look's like a double M partnership, Fijian international Esala Masi and new boy Alex Moriera look set to start as the main strikers in forthcoming National League matches.



Alex Moreira: Has switched from the city of churches to the steel city.

IMG and SA party while Adidas stay on board

Soccer Australia has cut ties with IMG (International Marketing Group) after the governing body claimed that the sports Management Company owed it a substantial sum of money.

It was IMG that

brought Korean giant LG on board for a three-year \$3 million- that has now expired-but it is best remembered for its involvement in the failed Socceroos series against Brazil in November 1999.

IMG's decision to end its relationship with SA was far from amicable,

with the firm claiming it had lost patience over "double selling" of the national

team, Internet and various other rights.

Long-term partner Adidas is also rumoured to be considering its future with the financially stricken body.

Adidas currently provides \$500,000 plus kits to the

national teams and the current contract concludes at the end of this year.

Responding to this rumour SA general manager Ian Holmes told the Daily Telegraph:

"There have been some hiccups but I can guarantee the relationship is not about to end."

"In fact in April, Adidas will launch its new line in Socceroos gear."



English Club Fulham eye Australian youngster



By Mark Stavroulakis

English Premier League club Fulham are said to be chasing an Australian youngster hailing from Perth.

Louis Parkinson, Perth born and raised is set to have attracted the attention of Fulham scouts during his four-month trial period at English First Division club Birmingham City.

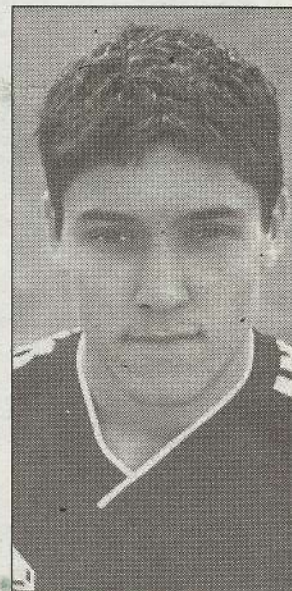
The teenager, who last year had a stint in the Australian U17 Joeys side unfortunately injured himself which ended his trial run at Birmingham that brought him back to Australia.

Renowned for scoring goals, the striker is currently training with Perth Premier League side Inglewood United, and is no doubt looking forward to yet another trial overseas in the near future.

Quizzed about which side

has asked the youngster to trial, Parkinson told planet-football.com "All I can say at this stage is that it will be a London-based club. Everything else is being kept under wraps for the time being."

However, Fulham have been interested in the Australian youngster and through time, there might yet be another young rising star playing his trade in England.



Louis Parkinson: English side Fulham are said to be interested in the youngster.

Letters to the Editor

Channel 9 Do Not Have Soccer In Their Hearts

Dear Sir,
After reading the article concerning World Cup coverage, I am compelled to say, give SBS the rights for the remaining games that channel 9 have decided not to cover.

It is obvious that the Nine Network have not got the game's interests at heart, rather they are looking at generating an audience through them showing only

the major matches, including the semi-finals and final.

SBS have covered numerous World Cups before any commercial stations had even considered taking it on board.

As the popularity of soccer in this country has steadily grown the cover-

age of SBS has increased and it is only now that stations such as 9 realise the

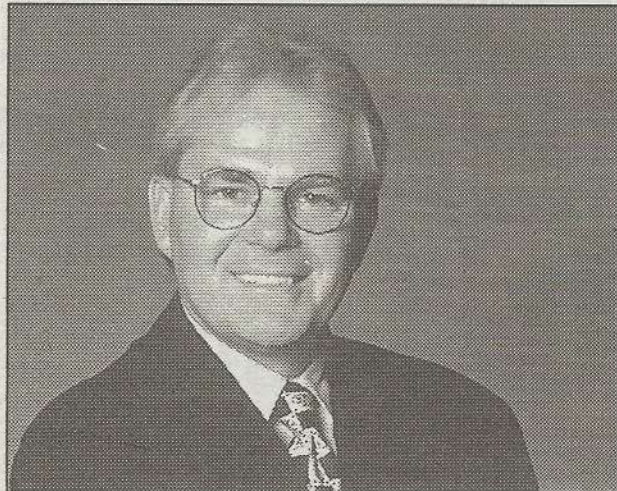
potential of showing the World Cup to what is essentially a multicultural audience in Australia. SBS has for

a long while recognised the diverse audience attracted to soccer and every four years has catered for their needs in providing the best coverage of the World Cup.

Channel 9's showing of only 16 games is jeopardising the exposure of the game and the attraction of the audience.

My call is for SBS to be given the rights of the remaining games so that the Australian audience can once again appreciate the magnitude and splendour of the World Cup.

J. Astey,
Heathcote, NSW.



Les Murray: SBS presented.

World Cup Coverage on SBS

Dear Sir,
After reading the article about the world cup coverage, where channel 9 has the rights to only 16 of the games I can honestly say that that network is more concerned about the possible revenue generated from these matches.

They have taken on board only the most important games and have neglected the openings rounds, which is quite hard to

fathom. The World Cup is about the top 32 teams coming together every 4 years to celebrate the world game in a festival atmosphere.

Sadly the 9 network has failed to see that the openings

rounds of the World Cup finals are as enthralling as the second phase and the final series.

SBS the true soccer network of Australia should be allowed to gain the rights for the remaining matches that channel 9 have not decided to take on board.

Their coverage in France was outstanding and brought the atmosphere of the opening rounds right into the lounge room

and this prepared well for the ensuing finals matches.

SBS spared no expense in doing this, having reporters in various French cities, inside

the stadiums and in the studio ensuring that the best possible coverage of the world game was achieved.

This trend should be allowed to continue for SBS unlike 9 are concerned with the game and not the profits that will be generated by showing only the most watched programs.

SBS should be given the rights for the not only the welfare of the game but for the pure enjoyment and pleasure that the World Cup brings to a global audience.

J. Zagari,
Kirribilli, NSW.



2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA/JAPAN

Editor's Note:
Anyone out there outraged about what is happening with the World Cup TV rights can contact their local parliament member in their designated region.

Final Football Mayhem

Dear Sir

Did you ever wonder at how crazy our finals football system is? Firstly, why do we call the team that finishes on top of the league at the conclusion of the regular season "Minor Premiers" when we only have one Premiership?

Surely the simple title of Premiers would suffice (we do have a separate competition with the top six series that is called a "Championship").

Secondly it is bizarre that a team that finishes for example fifth or sixth at the end of the season

can go on to represent Australia overseas as Australia's Championship club if it has a phenomenal final series and ends up winning the final playoffs and Grand Final - as happened to Sydney Olympic in 1990.

This does the team that wins the league over thirty odd matches a great disservice if they play badly in the finals.

Yet a few simple changes

would make our finals superior to the AFL.

I would like to suggest that the team that finishes on top of the ladder at the conclusion of the regular season.

1. Be called the Premiers and the reigning Premiers for the next 12 months (delete the word Minor),

2. Receives prizemoney e.g. \$50,000 OR \$100,000,

3. Wins a Cup named after a famous ex player to keep as a trophy,

4. Has all players and officials as nominated by the club itself receive Gold Premiership medallions with their name, club name and year to keep, ...

5. AUTOMATICALLY represents Australia as the reigning Premiers in any overseas competition such as the World Club Championship until the next home finals,

6. Gets the double chance at the finals with a home ground advantage.

The top six playoff series should be given the title name of Championship and clubs should receive prizemoney according to their final placings after the finals.

Thus a club that finishes sixth gets, say, \$20,000; fifth gets \$40,000; fourth gets \$60,000; third gets \$80,000, second gets \$100,000 and the winner \$120,000 (sponsors found and willing).

Additionally, in the Grand Final Championship play off the winning team should get a Cup, Gold Championship medallions for the players and the players on the losing team silver medallions as a reward for their efforts as runners up.

This system provides financial incentives for clubs to both make the top six and to earn more prizemoney by beating clubs above them.

It also give players valuable keepsakes upon retirement and develops a sense of club history and tradition by winning "the double". What do other readers think?

Mike Joske,
Perth WA.



Questions must be answered Soccer Australia

Dear Sir,

Soccer Australia has imposed a huge load on the thousands of volunteers who make soccer tick at the grassroots level.

Have they looked at the system over all? Are the soccer supporters over-governed like the general public, who have to maintain a local, State and Federal system of government with more politicians per head of population than anywhere else in the world.

In soccer we have local, State and "Federal" administration as well.

Why do we have States anyway? What do they contribute to the game apart from adding another level of administration and the associated expenses to be carried by the kids who only want to kick a ball around at the weekends.

Soccer administration should be regionalised on the basis of community of interest, ignoring State boundaries set

over 100 years ago.

The regional bodies would run the local game and be directly responsible to the Australian controlling body, which would take care of international affairs.

The politics, intrigue and deal-making, which has held soccer back and frightened off the big sponsors in the corporate world, will have to go if the game is to reach its potential in Australia.

Ian Knop's somewhat embarrassed cheesy smile when assuring media that everything is fine and under control at SA does little to help the hundreds of little clubs which have to fund the levy without even knowing if it is a one-off charge or if the title, The New National Registration levy, means it will be an on-going Golden Egg laid by every goose playing soccer across Australia.

I wonder if the "modified" levy is an effort to recover lost

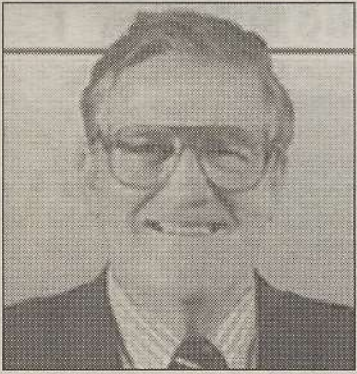


Ian Knop: Soccer Australia chairman under fire with levys.

income as a result of the administrative stuff-up reported recently on SBS in which SA advised the Italians in December that the proposed Australian tour was off. When they wanted to reverse the decision, the Italians said they were going to Uruguay. Mr Knop, nothing's changed.

George Green,
North Coast NSW.

OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

FEAST OF FOOTBALL

Prepare for faster passes when the "Fasta Pasta Centenary Soccer Challenge" is served as South Australia takes on Western Australia at the Hindmarsh Stadium on Saturday (March 9).

This opening match of the four game series is a recreation of the first official interstate game played by SA against WA at the Adelaide Oval in April, 1905.

Games against New South Wales (Saturday, May 18), Queensland (Monday, June 10) and Victoria (Saturday, October 5 or 12) will follow as South Australia celebrates its glorious 100th birthday of soccer participation.

The ACT and Tasmania also have indicated interest in reviving interstate competitions on a regular basis and SA will respond when suitable dates can be arranged.

SA in particular, has been starved of interstate competition, the last being a game against Victoria at Ramsay Park on in 1995.

SASF chairman Tony Henshaw said at last Tuesday's impressive launch of the series that SA was committed to return games against the current opposition over the next three years.

"For some years now we have been hearing how much the soccer public wants to support its own team in State colours well here is the chance to come out and support our very own team against interstate rivals," Henshaw said.

"Our State team consists of players from our 24 Premier and State League clubs. It is their opportunity to compete in an elite competition and I wish all State team candidates the best of luck.

"Our players have been training since October and have dedicated themselves to ensure they represent SA proudly," he said.

Already the tournament has been heavily advertised, thanks to the enthusiastic backing of SA-based national company, Fasta Pasta.

Company director Jim Rinaldi said his group is delighted to support the SASF in celebrating its Centenary celebrations.

"Pasta and sport are a natural together. My company has had a long association with sport and lifestyle in our marketing communications," Rinaldi said.

Former AIS graduate, Canberra Arrows and West Adelaide Sharks player, Mike Barnett is SA coach for the series, with Blue Eagles record breaking goalscorer Michael Brooks his captain.

Barnett has coached the State squad for the past two years in matches against visiting Japanese J League sides.

Woodville club.

Brooks was elated to be given the captaincy of his State, saying, "To be selected to play for your State is a great honour there is only one higher and that is to represent your country.

"But to be appointed captain of the State in a full on interstate series, is certainly the highlight of my career."

SA SQUAD

Michael Brooks, Marcin Kierno, Corey Artone, Jamie Perin, Michael Pirone, Frank Sergi (Blue Eagles); Ben Moore, Daniel Ferreira, Aaron Westervelt (Adelaide Galaxy); Nathan Day, Ryan Moore, Bill Misailidis, Paul Simmons (Metro Stars); Ric Cerracchio, Daniel



Alex Moreira: Played his final match for Adelaide City in last week's 3-0 loss to the Sharks.

Apart from his NSL playing record, Barnett racked up over 70 games in the Premier and State Leagues with Birkalla, Raiders and Noarlunga Bulldogs.

Brooks has had an outstanding career, earning the distinction as one of the most highly decorated players, having amassed 223 senior games in the NSL with Adelaide City and Wollongong Wolves.

He won the Golden Boots award for the highest Premier League goalscorer on three occasions 1996, 2000 and 2001.

Brooks was awarded SAs most coveted individual prize, the Sergio Melta Medal in 1996 when he was with the White City

Menechella, (Raiders); Sam Barbaro, Rick Petrowski (Croydon Kings); Duane Dobson, Robert Matosevic (Modbury Jets); Mark Yates, Jason Trimboli (Para Hills Knights); George Tsonis (Pirates); Jun Udagawa (Campbelltown City).

Coach: Mike Barnett. Team Manager: Denis Harlow.

WA SQUAD

Cory Hugo (Swan IC), Troy Bernard (Floreat Athena), Damian Trim (Fremantle City), Aaron Cole (Perth SC), Todd Howarth (Perth SC) Andreas Oliveira (Perth SC), Antonio Naglieri

(Perth Glory), Gary Faria (Perth Glory), Scott Devine (Western Knights), John Nicolaou (Western Knights), Scott Campbell (Inglewood), Ryan Jeans (Sorrento), Dale McCulloch (ECU Joondalup), Lucas Gobbi (Argentina), Dale Wingell (Fremantle City), Adrian Sutton (Floriat Athena)

Coach: Gary Marocchi

Manager: Robbie Dunn

WALK DON'T RUN

An action picture of Alex Moreira Adorned the Adelaide City Force match program cover when they played their last home game against Olympic Sharks.

At that stage there was little indication that the Brazilian striker would be making his last appearance for the club, but when he was taken off in the 77th minute of the 0-3 loss, it was indeed his 18th and final game of the season for the Force.

Four days later, Moreira, who netted seven goals in his stint with City, had signed to play for title seeking Newcastle United.

Cash strapped City was pleased to chop two seasons off Moreiras three season contract to accept a nominal transfer fee just two days before the transfer deadline was reached.

And the fact that Moreira was one of the highest paid players on the Force books will equate to a substantial saving over the next two years.

As we went to Press, Moreira was expected to make his debut for Newcastle against South Melbourne in the absence in Sweden of Joel Griffiths.

Meanwhile, Adelaide City is likely to blood its Premier League top goalscorer Robbie Saraceno against Brisbane

goes into extra-time and David saves a couple of penalties."

Scarsella was close with his prediction. Campbelltown won 2-1 in a thrilling match during which David capped a fine performance by saving a spot kick from Steve DeGiovanniello.

However, the latter rammed home the rebound to score Campbelltown's winner.

MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

Seven budding whistle blowing, card wheeling women are about to ease SA's critical shortage of referees.

Lee Corey, Amelia Darby, Angela Morton, Karen Moss, Susan Pearce, Lauren Travan and Nicole Wagner have accepted SA Women's Soccer Association scholarships for 2002.

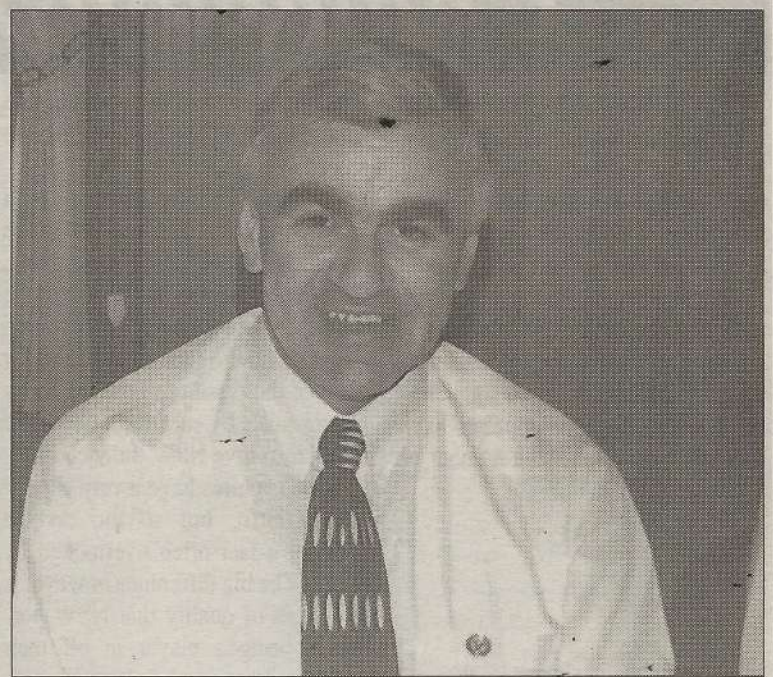
Women's Referees National Co-ordinator, Jenny Bray has expressed her delight. "This is wonderful news. Please convey to them my warmest greetings and my wish that they have long, successful careers.

"I look forward to hearing about their progress."

SASF SUMMER NIGHT SERIES SEMI-FINALS

Adelaide Galaxy 1 (Westervelt) Metro Stars 0. Best Galaxy: Tsekinis, Pezos, Ferreira, Westervelt; Metro Stars: Misailidis, Antoniou, David Menechella.

Campbelltown Red Devils 2 (Signoriello, DeGiovanniello) Adelaide City 1 (Sancillo). Best Campbelltown: Allen, DeGiovanniello, Signoriello, Campbell; Adelaide City: Faye, Scarsella, I. Paris, Moonie.



Brasil Scarsella faced a dilemma as son David, lined up in goal for Adelaide City against his old club Campbelltown City.

Strikers to compensate for Moreira and the suspended Scott Tunbridge.

DIVIDED LOYALTIES

Oceania president Basil Scarsella was faced with a sizeable dilemma on Wednesday night when his eldest son David lined up in goal for Adelaide City against his former club Campbelltown City in the SASF Summer Series second semi-final at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Who should Scarsella support? His son, or the club he played goalkeeper with for 17 competitive years?

Pre-match, paternal instincts were shelved as President Basil said, "My wish is that Campbelltown wins after the game

ABSW's SA correspondent, Allan Crisp, soccer promoter, Angelo Picca, West Beach coach Peter Millar and SBS "On the Ball" anchorman, Kyle Patterson can be heard on the 5RPH (1197am) Marshall Thompson Homes Breakfast Soccer Show each Tuesday from 7am-9am.

Former Australian international John Perin and The Advertiser soccer writer Memo Toutsidis, join Crisp each Sunday for the 5RPH SOS (Soccer On Sunday) program from 8.30am-9.30am, when the latest NSL, overseas and local scores are aired along with fast breaking news, views and interviews.



South Australian State launch from left to right; Robert Matosevic, Rick Petrowski, Michael Pirone, Michael Brooks, Jason Trimboli, Mark Yates.

National Youth League

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2001-2002

NORTHERN DIVISION

RESULTS RD 21

FRIDAY 1 MARCH 2002

Wollongong Wolves Youth (Aleksic 11', Aliffi 25', Austin 75')	3	Olympic Sharks Youth (Caravella 26', Zorbas 62')	2
Newcastle United Youth (Mensah 30', Libbesson 31', A. Hughes 38' pen, Majurovski 51')	4	Sydney United Colts (Simic 34')	1
NSWIS	0	Northern Spirit Youth (Bateup 29')	1
QAS	3	AIS (Hilton 12' 35', Morley 78')	0

SATURDAY 2 MARCH 2002

Marconi Stallions Youth (Anabalon 85', own goal 82', own goal 89')	3	Parramatta Power Youth (Groves 10', Vrkic 28', Kwasnik 38', Bojic 41')	4
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SUNDAY 3 MARCH 2002

ACTAS (Cattanach 75' 90' + pen, Menser 77')	3	Marconi Stallions Colts (Minic 52')	1
Sydney United Youth (Santalab 15' pen 17' 32', Cevenini 27' 71' pen)	5	Brisbane Toro (Dreger 29')	1

NORTHERN DIVISION LEAGUE

LADDER - ROUND 21

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parramatta Power Youth	21	16	0	5	67	24	48
Wollongong Wolves Youth	21	14	2	5	55	32	44
QAS	21	13	3	5	46	24	42

Marconi Stallions Youth	21	13	2	6	55	23	41
Sydney United Youth	21	13	2	6	51	22	41
Newcastle United Youth	22	13	2	7	46	33	41
AIS	21	12	1	8	47	31	37
Olympic Sharks Youth	22	8	6	8	40	33	30
ACTAS	20	9	3	8	37	49	30
Northern Spirit Youth	20	7	5	8	37	38	26
Brisbane Toro	21	7	0	14	38	66	21
NSWIS	25	4	3	18	23	68	15
Marconi Stallions Colts	21	2	2	17	15	59	8
Sydney United Colts	21	1	3	17	14	69	6

ROUND 22 FIXTURE

Newcastle United Youth Vs Marconi Stallions Youth 5.15pm Energy
Australia Stadium

Parramatta Power Youth Vs NSWIS

7.00pm Valentine Sports Park

Northern Spirit Youth Vs ACTAS 4.00pm Christie Park

AIS Vs Sydney United Colts 7.00pm AIS Soccer Field

Olympic Sharks Youth Vs QAS 4.00pm Toyota Park

Marconi Stallions Colts Vs Sydney United Youth

5.00pm Marconi Stadium

Brisbane Toro Vs Wollongong Wolves Youth

4.45pm Perry Park

POSTPONED MATCH FROM ROUND 12

WED 13-03-02 AIS Vs ACTAS 7.00pm AIS Soccer Field

LEADING SCORERS

Anabalon Eric	Marconi Stallions Youth	16
Danze Anthony	Australian Institute of Sport	16
Hilton Matt	Qld Academy of Sport	16
Kwasnik Adam	Parramatta Power Youth	15
Santalab Brendan	Sydney United Youth	15
Timpano Jacob	NSW Institute of Sport	15
Rose Joshua	Brisbane Toro	13
Majurovski John	Newcastle United Youth	12
Gavaghan Peter	Parramatta Power Youth	11



Matthew Hilton: QAS striker scored two of the three goals that sunk the AIS at Ballymore. Hilton, current U17 Australian international is now on 16 goals.

SOCCER WOMAN BY JANENE MAR

A Sapphires or Eclipse Championship?

Will it be the NSW Sapphires or the Canberra Eclipse lifting the WNSL trophy aloft come Saturday evening at Parramatta Stadium?

The majority of pundits would say with confidence the NSW Sapphires. Undeclared over the ten round season, the statistics speak for themselves. The mighty Sapphires have scored all but double the number of

goals of their opponents, and have (marginally) the best defensive record as well.

Canberra Eclipse however is a worthy opponent and will relish the underdog status. In Round Nine, Canberra showed that NSW are beat-able, frustrating their favoured rivals by holding the upper hand for most of the clash until the infamous pair of goals by substitute Catherine Cannuli to give NSW the victory.

The Sapphires have a very experienced outfit, but so too do the Eclipse, a fact often overlooked by many. The big difference however is the depth of quality that NSW possess - bring a player in off their bench and not much is lost, whereas Canberra essentially has a very raw group outside their starting eleven.

Grand Final experience is also a big factor. This will be NSW's fourth national league grand final, and with a win on Saturday, will become the first team to win the crown a third time, in this the sixth year of the competition. Many of their players have experienced the atmosphere at least once before. It is also interesting to note that NSW have never lost a grand final at home. Canberra have made one previous grand final appearance, but were on the losing end of the scoreboard that day.

The goalscorer's chart for the season paints an intriguing picture - a trio of joint top scorers, and all three



Adrian Santrac: Matildas coach will be watching for future players for his squad.

will be on the park Saturday - Canberra's midfielder-cum-striker Caitlin Munoz and Sapphires pair Kelly Golebiowski and Alicia Cavanagh.

On the day, much will depend on who is the hungrier and the more focused. Sapphires third title, or Eclipse's first?



Kelly Golebiowski: Sapphires entertaining striker.

NSW SAPPHIRES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
NSW SAPPHIRES	10	9	1	-	39	7	32	28

MATILDAS (5):

Heather Garriock, Kelly Golebiowski, Cassandra Kell, Joanne Peters, Anissa Tann

Olympians (3): Garriock, Golebiowski, Tann

AIS SCHOLARSHIP SQUAD (4):

Garriock, Golebiowski, Peters, Tann

YOUNG MATILDAS (6):

Catherine Cannuli, Kathryn Collins, Emma Davison, Collette McCallum, Nikki Pichon, Thea Slatyer

GRANDFINAL APPEARANCES (TEAM) (3):

2000/01, 1999/00, 1997/98

CHAMPIONSHIPS (2):

1999/00, 1997/98

GRANDFINAL APPEARANCES (INDIV) (21):

Kell 3, Golebiowski 3, Tann 3, Michelle Carney 2, Garriock 2, Peters 2, Cannuli 1, Alicia Cavanagh 1, Davison 1, Slatyer 1, Lisa Warrenner 1, coach Allan Bourke 1.

2001/02 GOALSCORERS:

Golebiowski 8, Cavanagh 8, Peters 4, Garriock 4, Warrenner 3, Taryn Rockall 3, Carney 3, Cannuli 2, Nicole Kimber 1, McCallum 1, Kylie Ledbrook 1, own goal 1

CANBERRA ECLIPSE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
CANBERRA ECLIPSE	10	6	2	2	20	9	11	20

MATILDAS (7):

Rhian Davies, Peita-Claire Hepperlin, Bridgette Starr, Amy Taylor, Gill Thomson, Sacha Wainwright, Amy Wilson

OLYMPIANS (4):

P Hepperlin, Starr, Wainwright, Wilson

AIS SCHOLARSHIP SQUAD (8):

Davies, P Hepperlin, Tal Karp, Sue Read, Taylor, Thomson, Wainwright, Wilso

YOUNG MATILDAS (4):

Simone Borucinski, Lisa Hartley, Luisa Marzotto, Caitlin Munoz

GRANDFINAL APPEARANCES (TEAM) (1):

1998/99

CHAMPIONSHIPS:

(0)

GRANDFINAL APPEARANCES (INDIV) (6):

Davies 1 (NSW), Danielle Hepperlin 1, P Hepperlin 1, Starr 1 (NSW), Wainwright 1, Wilson 1, 2001/02 Goalscorers: Munoz 8, Wilson 6, Wainwright 2, Thomson 2, Karp 1, P Hepperlin 1.

WNSL GRANDFINAL

NSW SAPPHIRES v CANBERRA ECLIPSE

SATURDAY 9 MARCH

4.00PM KICKOFF

PARRAMATTA STADIUM

NSL : Parramatta Power v Perth Glory : 7.30pm

NEW SOUTH WALES PREMIER LEAGUE

www.nswpremierleague.com



FEATURE MATCH

Bankstown City Lions



VS



Bonnyrigg WE

KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Sunday 10 March 2002

VENUE: Jensen Park, Clapham Street, Sefton

The mouth salivates for this game! Two sides with a known bent for playing attacking football squaring off in front of a huge crowd at Jensen Park.

Whichever way you look at this game, it promises so much and sees the likes of Jimmy Aschner, Robbie Gomez and John Kyriazopoulos line up against Colin Luff, Goce Trposki and Darren Iocca. This game is one not to be missed!

Bankstown City have struggled a little in recent weeks going down to Leichhardt and then posting a 4 all draw with the struggling Saints last Friday night. When they are on song they are capable of ripping any side to pieces though their recent form has been a little indifferent, sending them into this game as slight underdogs.

"We are a Jeckyl and Hyde side," said striker Colin Luff, "when we play well we destroy sides, when we play badly, we play really badly."

After pushing their way into the Top Five after a courageous 3-2 win over Fairfield, the

Lions have picked up just one point from their past two starts to slump to seventh position on the table.

Robert Angievski with his perennial groin problem is the only player causing any injury concerns, though he is expected to play some part in the Lions plans this week. His influence with Leo Carle in the Bankstown engine room will hold the key for their sides chances.

"It's the old adage for us, every game is a Grand Final," said Luff. "I'm looking forward to the Bonnyrigg game against my former club but that aside, its crucial, we must win to make the semi-finals."

Bonnyrigg have seemingly turned the corner after two wins in their past two weeks. The timely return to form of Jimmy Aschner with four goals in two games has the White Eagles brimming with confidence that they have the ability to knock over the home side and continue to hold their spot in the top three.

"We had a few games there where we struggled," said midfielder John Kyriazopoulos, "but we are back and playing some good football again. We have been working exceptionally hard at training and the extra work is really starting to pay off."

The only player causing any problems in the camp is Shane Knight who was rested against Penrith with a hamstring problem and he should be back in the first grade squad. The nip and tuck battle between Ivan Necevski and Fernando Greco continues for the number one shirt, with Necevski currently holding the upper hand after a clean sheet against the Panthers.

"Bankstown will be very tough," concluded Kyriazopoulos. "They are a tough side at home and we must play well, but I am confident we have the team to do that, and keep the pressure on Parramatta at the top of the table."



Goce Trposki: Bankstown City star.

Bankstown City Lions are proudly sponsored by: The Good Guys @ Bankstown, ASU - All Sewn Up, New Tech Automotive, Direct Smash Repairs, G.Mack & Co. Accountants, Alex Electrical, Bucinski Accounting Enterprises, BP Yagoona, I&V Plaster, D&S Gyprock, Australiers, M&S Variety, Australian Mortgage Options, P&E Landscaping & Maintenance, D&V Building Supplies, Bexley North Cellars, IGA - Springwood, MACO.com.au, Wholesale Trailers

PREMIER LEAGUE

ROUND 18

Saturday March 9

1st Grade U19

C'bury-M'ville	v	Fairfield Bulls	Henson Park	7:00pm	5:00pm
S'land Sharks	v	Leichhardt Tigers	Seymour Shaw	7:00pm	5:00pm
Blacktown City	v	St George	Gabbie Stadium	7:00pm	5:00pm
Central Coast	v	P'matta Eagles	Pluim Park	7:00pm	5:00pm
Belconnen BD	v	Penrith Panthers	Hawker Oval	5:00pm	3:00pm

Sunday March 10

1st Grade U19

Bankstown City	v	Bonnyrigg WE	Jensen Park	7:00pm	5:00pm
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ROUND 19

Saturday March 16

1st Grade U19

St George Saints	v	S'land Sharks	Jubilee Oval	5:00pm	3:00pm
Fairfield Bulls	v	Central Coast	Nineveh Field	7:00pm	5:00pm
Bonnyrigg WE	v	Blacktown City	Serbian Centre	7:00pm	5:00pm
Penrith Panthers	v	Bankstown City	Andrews Road	7:00pm	5:00pm
P'matta Eagles	v	Belconnen BD	Melita Stadium	6:30pm	4:30pm

Sunday March 17

1st Grade U19

Leichhardt Tigers	v	C'bury M'ville	Lambert Park	5:00pm	3:00pm
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Rescheduled Fixtures

Round 13: Wednesday 13 March: Under 19:

Penrith Panthers	v	Leichhardt Tigers	Lambert Park	7:15pm
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Round 14: Wednesday 6 March: 1st Grade:

Bonnyrigg WE	v	Fairfield Bulls	Serbian Centre	8:00pm
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Round 14: Wednesday 6 March: Under 19:

Bonnyrigg WE	v	Fairfield Bulls	Serbian Centre	6:00pm
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ST. GEORGE



The Cafe La Scala Player of the Week after Round 17 of the NSW Premier League is:



Bruno Beddoni
St George Saints

Cafe La Scala is located at Shop 32, Piazza Level, Italian Forum, 23 Norton St, Leichhardt - Phone: (02) 9572 8577



Inside ... Inside ...

- From The SidelinesP15
- Match Reports.....P16-17
- Club Focus.....P18
- Scoreboard & Picture GalleryP19



NSW Premier League



PREVIEW ROUND EIGHTEEN

The Demons are back!



Belconnen Blue Devils

VS

Penrith Panthers



KICK-OFF: 5pm & 3pm, Saturday 9 March 2002
VENUE: Hawker Oval, Walhallow St, Hawker (ACT)

Despite the home form of the Blue Devils not being one of their strong points, the home side is definitely the odds-on favourite in this contest.

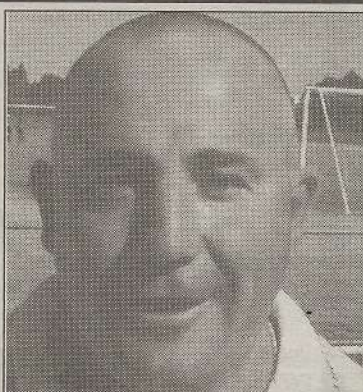
Coach Lino Fiorese will be looking to add to the five wins from their eight home starts in a bid to consolidate his side's position in the top three.

The Panthers were given a hiding last weekend by a fired up Bonnyrigg and will need all of the coaching

expertise of Tony Rasmussen during the week to have them bounce back.

Penrith have not won an away game all season, and to be brutally frank, it's hard to see them posting their first one this week.

Round Seven Result: Penrith Panthers 0 Belconnen Blue Devils 2 (Popovich, Katz)



Tony Rasmussen of Penrith Panthers. Can he coach his side to their first away win of the season against the in-form Blue Devils?

Belconnen Blue Devils are proudly sponsored by Belconnen Soccer Club, Uhlspor, Mcguigan Wines, bestvalueIT.com, Pacific Painting, Sharp Direct



Blacktown City Demons

ST. GEORGE

VS

St George Saints



KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Saturday 9 March 2002
VENUE: Gabbie Stadium, Quinn Ave, Seven Hills

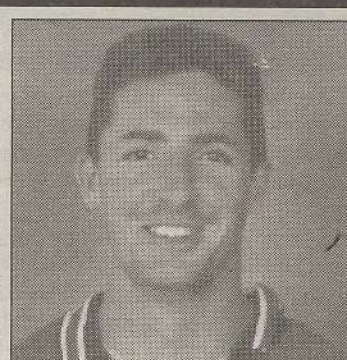
Blacktown's timely return to form has seen them bounce back into the race for the Top Five after falling as low as seventh position.

Long term injuries to Paul Yates and Damon Langan have seen the Demons reshuffle their defence to include both Mike Smith and Dane Hokin, with the team really starting to put its best foot forward.

St. George won't lie down and although the Demons will start favourites, the Saints have enough in the arsenal to trouble the home side.

Evergreen striker Bruno Beddoni has scored 9 goals in the past 6 games and he will need to be closely monitored. Nabil Codmani is expected to be rushed straight back into the Saints squad while there is an injury doubt over Angelo Petratos after a head clash in the match against the Lions.

Round Seven Result: St. George 0 Blacktown City 2 (Own Goal, Rastall)



Kain Rastall, a product of the famous Blacktown City Demons/West Ham United Academy, will be on show for the Demons this Saturday night.

Blacktown City Demons are proudly sponsored by, Perfection Milk, West Ham United Football Club, Cadbury-Schweppes, Wonderland Travel, Independent Gaming Systems



Sutherland Sharks

VS

Leichhardt Tigers



KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Saturday 9 March 2002
VENUE: Seymour Shaw, The Boulevard, Miranda



Leichhardt's seasoned hitman, Steve Karavatakis.

Sutherland hasn't posted a favourable result since January 26th leaving them as rank outsiders as they take on the Tigers.

In the past two weeks they have conceded 12 goals, though they did manage to find the net three times in the last ten minutes in their game against Fairfield last Saturday night.

The Tigers have again nestled themselves in the Top Five, and coach Les De Celis knows only too well, his side needs to beat sides like the Sharks if they are to have any aspirations for a top three finish.

Round Seven Result: Leichhardt Tigers 2 (Larocca pen, Picken) Sutherland Sharks 1 (Danaskos)

Sutherland Sharks are proudly sponsored by Pipe King, Bezzina's Development, Caltex, Howard Water Proofing, Knock-out Shoes, Realco Glass and Aluminium, Man-Lin-Wah Restaurant



C'bury-Marrickville

VS

Fairfield Bulls



KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Saturday 9 March 2002
VENUE: Henson Park, Sydenham Rd/Centennial St, Marrickville



Olympic's dangerman: Liberian striker, Andy Amegashie.

Canterbury normally grows an extra leg at Henson Park and they will be hoping to exert that advantage when they host the Bulls.

For the Berries, their season is on the line after some disappointing recent form has seen them slip behind the top seven teams in the race for the Top Five.

The Bulls bounced back from two straight

losses to post a 6-3 win over the struggling Sharks.

With Marc Hoenselaars and Nick Bosevski finding the target 5 times between them, the home side could well be in for a torrid time against their opponents.

Round Seven Result: Fairfield Bulls 1 (Hoenselaars) Canterbury-Marrickville 0

Canterbury Marrickville Olympic is proudly sponsored by Olympic Airways and Meraklis Tailors



NSW Premier League



FROM THE SIDELINES *with Greg Stock and Paul Goodwin*

Fairfield Bulls' Coach Craig Sharpley is not hitting the panic button just yet, though a couple of recent losses have seen his side slip out of the top three and into the danger zone.

"It's been a tough last few weeks, and although we have been playing well, we haven't managed to win either." With a couple of youngsters knocking on the door for first grade selection, don't be surprised to see a few fresh faces in the Fairfield line-up.

Sutherland Sharks are holding their AGM on the 20th March at the Seymour Shaw Clubrooms. In other club news, midfielder Steve Cklamovski missed the Fairfield game on the weekend, owing to the fact he was away on holidays.

Cklamovski was one of the thousands of fans at the Australian Formula One Grand Prix at Albert Park in Melbourne.

Bankstown City Midfielder

Dong Ki-Kim is the only player in the club causing any injury concerns.

The dynamic Lions midfielder has a problem with his ankle and hasn't been able to train since the Leichhardt game.



Mark Hagger: Switched from Blacktown City to Johor FC of Malaysia.

The loss to the Tigers was a tough one for the club fans to take after their meritorious performance against Fairfield the week before which saw them move into the Top Five for the first time all season.

Canterbury-Marrickville midfielder Michael Kladis was an interested spectator at the Berries game against Parramatta Eagles on the weekend.

Kladis picked up five yellow cards and was given the week

off for his troubles, with the suspension allowing the Berries sweeper the opportunity to allow his ankle injury to heal.

"I copped a knock on the ankle against the Coasties and twisted it at training a few days later," said Kladis, "so I guess you could say the week off has come at

a good time for me."

Blacktown City has lost striker Mark Hagger. The former Canberra Cosmos and Parramatta Power player has accepted a move to Malaysian club side Johor FC, where he will link up with former Demon Jon Angelucci.

"We are sorry to see Mark go," said Coach Brian Brown, "but we wish him all the best and I am sure he will prove to be a good acquisition for Johor."

The injury news on Damon Langan doesn't look so good. The midfielder looks set to miss the next 4 games as he strives to return from a leg injury.

Losses can be attributed to many things — but forget-

ting your own player?

When the Belconnen Blue Devils travelled to Henson Park to play Canterbury recently, under 19's Coach Paul Ontong met all the players at the bus on the Saturday morning.

He also gave David Selby, a player in his team, a lift to the bus. When it was time for the bus to leave, they checked if everyone was there. The answer was yes... except that one Mr. Selby was somewhat left behind, having ventured to the nearby shops. Now I wonder how he was missed?

Parramatta Eagles want to congratulate Mark Milligan on receiving a scholarship to the Australian Institute of Sport in Soccer.

Mark has been playing with the

Parramatta club since he was 12 years old; what makes it more remarkable is that Mark has never played representative soccer for NSW.

Mark was recommended to the A.I.S. Coach Steve O'Connor, who



Andy Ravello: Rumoured to be moving from Fairfield Bulls to Connecticut Wolves in America's D3 Pro-League.

arranged for Mark to be assessed during an under 19 match between Parramatta Eagles

and Belconnen when they played in Canberra a few weeks ago.

Mark must have played well that day, because, soon after, he was offered an opportunity to travel to Canberra to trial for a position with the Institute.

Last week, Mark was advised that he was successful in gaining a scholarship the Institute on the Saturday.

It is good to see that the system allows players outside the Elite programmes to be identified at a later stage. There are and have been players that develop later than others.

Well done Mark, the Club wishes you all the best for the future.

Central Coast Coasties VS Parramatta Eagles

KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Saturday 9 March 2002

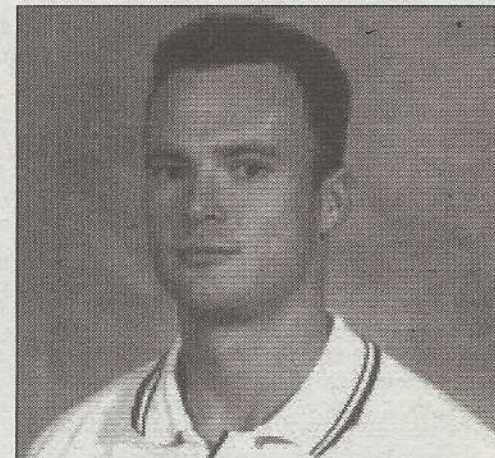
VENUE: Pluim Park, Tuggerah St, Lisarow (Central Coast)

While the Coasties still have a mathematical chance of the Top Five, it will require a Herculean effort for them just to get close.

Their four game unbeaten run came to a shuddering halt at the hands of Belconnen last weekend and they will need to be at their absolute best to test one of the competition's form sides, Parramatta.

The Eagles are more than capable of scoring goals at will. Anthony Mondello, Danial Cummins, Jimmy Bakis and Daniel Kukucka are all goalscorers of immense talent, tilting the scales in favour of the away side.

Round Seven Result: Parramatta Eagles 4 (Mondello x3, Bakis) Central Coast 0



Central Coast's Mick Williams can fire his side to victory over the league leaders.

Central Coast Coasties are proudly sponsored by the Central Coast Leagues Club

NEW SOUTH WALES PREMIER LEAGUE

PRODUCTION: Daniel Kuziow, Elly Vea, Mary Quartly, Mark Stavroulakis
CO-ORDINATOR: Binesh Mudaliar
WRITERS: Greg Stock, Paul Goodwin, Claire Killeen, Lezette Isaac, Ray Sandell, Nick Guoth, Robbie Bartolillo, Gary Vandeburgt
PHOTOGRAPHY: Carlos Furtado
 ★ All information is courtesy of the New South Wales Soccer Federation.
NSWSF
 Valentine Sports Park
 235-257 Meurants Lane
 GLENWOOD NSW 2768
 Phone: (02) 9629 1800



NSW Premier League



Fairfield Bulls 6 Sutherland Sharks 3

By Robbie Bartolillo

The Edensor Park based Bulls avoided a third successive loss, overcoming a youthful Sharks outfit 6-3 in a goal extravaganza. Amazingly, the visiting Sharks provided stubborn 1st half resistance, despite fielding six under 18 players.

Enjoying a wealth of possession, the Bulls best chances of the half fell to prolific marksman Mathew Borg, his wayward finish in the 34th, highlighting his frustration. Time and again the home side created a wealth of chances; only to be repelled by the Sharks effective offside trap or enthusiastic defence.

However, following Mikuletic's athletic save from the Sharks Simon Miller, the Bulls would eventually score in the 42nd. Van Bentum switched perfectly for Bosevski on the right; his



Sutherland Sharks' playmaker, Jamie Danaskos.

volleyed cross finally scrambled in by Marc Hoenselaars.

With the 16-year-old Musumeci brothers buzzing with enthusiasm and pace, the Sharks looked threatening, especially in combination with the Pfrengle brothers. But it was the astutely organised Bulls who scored the second goal in the 53rd, when Bosevski wrong footed Kurtz with his deflected shot. Then just a minute later, the Sharks morale was well and truly shattered, Paul Bourke slotting home a great Bosevski through ball.

Resembling a tennis match, the Bulls then went 4 luv up in the 56th, again the busy Bosevski caused havoc, his volley beating the advancing Kurtz.

To their credit, the Sharks attempted to capitalise on any Bulls complacency, with Monte Pfrengle and young Kris Karanasos attacking at every possible chance.

But the home side quashed any complacent suggestions, with Hoenselaars effortlessly piercing the defence and slotting in his second. Following three late consolation goals for the visitors, Hoenselaars completed his hat trick in the 90th, tapping in a clever Borg assist.

Bulls Coach Craig Sharpley was relieved with the outcome. "We played well, but we can't concede goals like that. Having said that, we've lost the last two games 3-2, so it was a great result."

Fairfield Bulls 6 (Hoenselaars 42/69/92, Bosevski 53/56, Bourke 54)
Sutherland Sharks 3 (Stajcic 86, Karanasos 88, Petrovski 90)

BULLS: Mikuletic, Bourke, Richardson, Van Bentum, Hoenselaars, Borg, Harrison (Younis 76), Maric (Snyder 58), Bosevski, Dihm, Connolly (Arrarte 82)

SHARKS: Kurtz, Stajcic, Short, M. Pfrengle (LaMacchia 90), A. Pfrengle (Petrovski 75), Karanasos, McAusland, C. Musumeci, M. Musumeci (Danaskos 62), Kasznik, Miller

Cautions: Borg 40
Referee: W. Crabb
Asst. Ref: M. Nemorin, K. Sharp
Fourth Official: E. Horvath



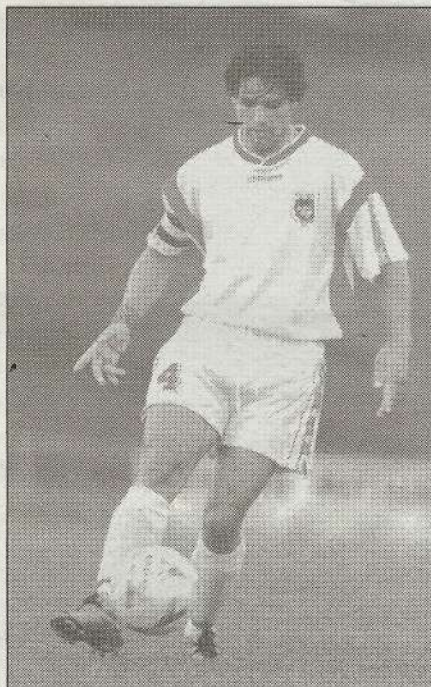
St George Saints 4 Bankstown City 4

By Paul Goodwin

A scintillating second half, laden with goals and featuring a magnificent hat-trick from the ageless Bruno Beddoni, saw St George recover late to record a 4-4 draw against an enterprising Bankstown City Lions at St George Stadium on Friday night.

Bankstown led early from a fine lob by the prolific Colin Luff, whose 22nd minute finish, after a ball played over the heads of the defence by schemer Fred Umlil, looked like providing a good platform for the visitors, who had been under some pressure up to that point.

When Bruno Beddoni equalised in the 65th, after shrugging aside defenders on the right and beating Zlatko Josevski from a tight angle, things looked less rosy, but within two minutes Adam



Captain Courageous: "(Angelo) Petratos had collected a flying elbow and had a badly gashed cheek, but played on after receiving some medical attention and then made the trip to hospital at the end of the game."

Mammoliti had got away down the rightski Beddoni coolly planted the ball past the keeper for a second equaliser.

Beddoni then got away again in the 81st and beat Joseski with a great striker's finish to put Saints in front for the first time.

It was his ninth goal in seven games and provided a well-deserved hat trick for the man who joined the side six rounds into the competition.

The Saints' celebrations were short lived, however, as within four minutes ashed shots against the bar and the post at different stages and Max Sevares had a shot cleared off the line by Kanaan. It was a second half of constant activity and tension with neither coach happy with his defence, understandably.

Beddoni then got away again in the 81st and beat Joseski with a great striker's finish to put Saints in front for the first time.

It was his ninth goal in seven games and provided a well-deserved hat trick for the man who joined the side six rounds into the competition.

The Saints' celebrations were short lived, however, as within four minutes Umlil had converged on a Kanaan cross from the right to volley home at the far post and a minute later substitute Darren Iocca had nodded home what looked to be the Lions' winner.

Just as St George supporters were lamenting their luck they found themselves four players on one and in behind the Bankstown defence who all stood appealing for offside in vain. The 89th minute was just late enough to ensure no more comebacks by Bankstown as George Maglis was able to head home Simon Verrinder's cross from the left byline.

St George 4 Bruno Beddoni 65, 70 (pen) 81
George Maglis 89
Bankstown 4 Colin Luff 22, Adam Mammoliti 67, Fred Umlil 85, Darren Iocca 86

Referee: Alex Spiroski
Assistants: Terry Goodhew and Danny Adamopoulos
Fourth Official: Heidi Breeze



Penrith Panthers 0 Bonnyrigg WE 6

By Ray Sandell

When you see a result with one team winning 6-0 you would think that the game would be very one sided, and in this case you would be correct!

After 22 seconds from the kick off Bonnyrigg scored their first goal and the sixth came 22 seconds from the final whistle. In between these goals the winners did what they wanted and when they wanted, to such an extent that the ground announcer must have gone to sleep because he failed to announce one goal or its scorer! Even the boys on the scoreboard had the Panthers winning 2-0 at one stage in an attempt to stir up their team!

Direct from the kick off the White Eagles attacked. Michael Hawrysiuk got the ball, ran down the right, crossed to Jimmy Aschner and 1-0! The Penrith defence hadn't touched the ball and it appeared had set their standard for the night. Six minutes later Bonnyrigg received a free kick ten metres outside the penalty area. John Kyriazopoulos' curling free kick sailed over the defence



John Kyriazopoulos: The key player for Bonnyrigg.

to a waiting Bobby Dragas at the far post and 2-0!

Five minutes later David Harding put a magical ball through the defence to Aschner and he surprisingly shot straight at Chad Taylor from eight metres out! The ball went up the other end and bounced to Luke Boyd who gave Ivan Necevski his first touch of the ball with a low shot near the left-hand post.

Bonnyrigg appeared to ease off and take pity on the Panthers defence but now and then Robert Gomez and Kyriazopoulos showed their magical touches and speed to keep the crowd entertained. At half time the score was still 2-0, how and why we will never know!

The second half started similar to the first. Gomez got the ball, sent it to Kyriazopoulos who had a shot from twenty metres and Aschner was standing at the far post to make it 3-0. While the Panthers defence still appeared to be asleep (with the ground announcer) their attack decided that enough was enough and showed that at least they were interested.

Rod Hutchinson made a number of runs and but for some brilliant saves from Necevski (who definitely wasn't asleep) he may have woken up his teammates! Bonnyrigg seemed to decide that they would finish the game with a bang and Vuko Tomasevic ran down to the goal line near the edge of the goal area and from an impossible angle fired a shot into the far side of the goal. 4-0!

Hutchinson had another couple of tries to wake but Necevski again said 'No'. Tomasevic put a ball through to Aschner who ran through the Penrith defence and you guessed it, 5-0!

The crowd started to leave, believing that the scoring had finished, but Gomez made one last attempt with the best goal of the night. He picked up the ball near the half way line jumped at least two lunging tackles and from the corner of the penalty area lobbed the ball over a bemused Taylor into the far corner of the goal. 6-0!

Bonnyrigg were back! They had got over their mid season slump and had shown the spying Parramatta Eagles officials in the crowd that they were not going to have it all their own way!

Goals
Penrith: Nil
Bonnyrigg: Six - Aschner 1min, 46min, 71min
Dragas 7min, Tomasevic 57min, Gomez 90min

PENRITH: Taylor, Giometti, Meilak (El Ali), Wells, Marosevic, Hutchinson, Scibberas, Hinton, T. O'Connell (McCaffery), Noble, Boyd (L. O'Connell)

BONNYRIGG: Necevski, Utjesenovic, Huseyin, Dragas (Devrimol), West, Kyriazopoulos, Tomasevic, Harding, Hawrysiuk (Ghisso), Aschner (Gunn), Gomez

Cautions:
Penrith: Hutchinson 42min
Bonnyrigg WE: Huseyin 43min
Referee: Simon Przydacz
Assistant Referees: Colin Smith, Joe Rovella
Fourth Official: Jim Barnes



NSW Premier League



Belconnen BD 2 Central Coast 0

By Gary Vandeburgt

The Belconnen Blue Devils were guilty of missing several easy chances but were still good enough to record a 2-0 victory over the Central Coast Coasties at Hawker Oval on Saturday.

The match did not reach great heights as the Coasties struggled to threaten the Blue Devils goal and the home side cruised to victory. The Coasties started strongly but were on the back foot when Stewart Camara's diagonal ball found Michael Katz on the edge of the area, but he blasted over with only the keeper to beat.

After 15 minutes Katz burst down the left and passed square to Daniel Macor who was in space on the edge of the penalty area, however he tripped before he could get his shot away. Macor made amends in the 36th minute when he opened the scoring with a neatly placed shot into the bottom left corner after Matt Cachia's run and cross from the right.

On the stroke of half time Elliot Zwangobani burst through the Coasties defence and with the keeper beaten he saw his shot rebound of the post.

Belconnen Blue Devils 2 (Macor 36,54)
Central Coast Coasties 0

BELCONNEN: Giannasca (McKenna 86), Cachia, Zwangobani, Lyons, Katz, Macor, Arranz (Mauro 67), S Camara, Perinovic (D Camara 75), Kemp, Milin
CAUTIONS: Zwangobani 30, Kemp 58
CENTRAL COAST: Moore, Matthews, Jones, Daley, Peatey (Ritchie 45), Williams, Freeman (Preston 60), Leary (McKendrick 45), Clark, Wilson, Metcalf

CAUTIONS: Wilson 50, McKendrick 68, Williams 74
Referee: Ben Williams
Assistant Referees: Chris Blain and Roger Clarke
Fourth Official: Byron Luck

After again blasting over from close range Macor made it 2-0 when he pounced of a defensive mistake by the Coasties Scott Jones and easily slotted his shot past keeper Darren Moore.

The only scare for the Blue Devils came in the 86th minute when captain and keeper Tony Giannasca was substituted after feeling a twinge in his troublesome hamstring. However, he claimed it was only a precautionary move.

The Blue Devils third victory in a row sees them cement their spot in the Top Five and keeps their semi final hopes alive, while the Coasties will look toward next season.



The Blue Devils are in ominous form.



Parramatta Eagles 5 C'bury-M'ville 1

By Greg Stock

Parramatta Eagles all but put an end to the semi-final hopes of Canterbury-Marrickville with an emphatic 5-1 win at Melita Stadium on Sunday night.

Dishing out a footballing lesson along the way, the Eagles were never headed as they continue to hold onto top spot on the competition table.

Dominating possession right from the opening whistle, it seemed only a matter of time before Parramatta would get the scoreboard rolling. Sitting back behind the ball, Canterbury were tough to breakdown, but by the 40th minute the Eagles had a result when Kukucka worked a brilliant one, two move with Anthony Mittiga to score goal number one.

Five minutes later Ben Delicata beat a stranded Berries goalkeeper Les Bihari to a through ball, and made no mistake with his chip shot to give the home side a comfortable 2-0 lead.

Parramatta Eagles 5 (Kukucka 40' Delicata 45' Bakis 65' 76' Reveley 73') Canterbury-Marrickville 1 (Amegashie 60')

PARRAMATTA EAGLES: Jason Holmes, Geoff Dwyer, Mark Reveley, Mirko Jurilj, Daniel Kukucka, Anthony Mittiga (Geoff Howarth 80'), Glenn Sprod (Malcolm Mellak 76'), Paul O'Grady, Ben Delicata, Daniel Cummins (Mauricio Islas 85'), Jim Bakis
CANTERBURY-MARRICKVILLE: Les Bihari, Greg Collins, John Manolopoulos (Nihad Alemeic 76'), Mark D'Alessandro, Andy Amegashie, Con Paradisis, John Pillemer (Fernando Pellegrino 46'), Ali Salim (Anthony Doumanis 46'), Aheleas Kotsopoulos, Angelo Markopoulos, Yane Talceviski
Referee: Peter Vrtkovski
Assistant Referees: Jim Nicolaou and Peter Verrender
Fourth Official: Michael Johnson



Prolific Eagles striker, Jim Bakis.

The visitors came out strongly in the first quarter of an hour after the break, on the back of some good possession and distribution by substitute Anthony Doumanis. Andy Amegashie got his side back to 2-1 when he latched onto a Doumanis through ball and worked his way around Jason Holmes, but that would be as close as they would get. The Eagles turning on the pressure giving the Berries no respite.

Jim Bakis picked himself up another two goals and could have had himself two more if he had have maintained his composure in front of goal. His first in the 65th minute was a brilliant right foot shot from distance while his second in the 76th minute was the result of a Kukucka cross and a brilliant touch which left his marker floundering. Even veteran defender Mark Reveley got into the act, beating Bihari to a nonchalant cross in the 73rd minute.

While the result leaves the Eagles on top of the table, the loss is all but the end of Canterbury's post season hopes.



Blacktown City 2 Leichhardt Tigers 0

By Paul Goodwin

Blacktown City edged out Leichhardt Tigers 2-0 on Sunday night, after a titanic struggle at Lambert Park, which could have seen the result, go either way at any stage.

The Demons prevailed by virtue of a brilliant piece of finishing from Zlatko Donev in the 29th minute and a disastrous error by Tigers' keeper Andrew Crews in the 85th, that gifted the visitors a second goal, just when Leichhardt had looked almost certain to find an equaliser.

The Demons were on the board when Naoki Imaya played a lovely ball into the box for Donev on the right to run more dangerous of the two sides to that point.

Naoki Imaya played a lovely ball into the box for Donev on the right to run onto and his finish with a volley into the top right corner of the net was all class.

Allan Picken went close for the home side in the 40th, after Sam La Rocca had played Steve

Karavatakis in behind the defence to lay on a pass for Picken, who could only volley well over the bar.

Karavatakis also turned smartly in the box to fire in a shot that John Crawley did well to smother in the 43rd.

The game became even livelier after the break with both sides fluent with their approach work. David Reid had a shot saved well by Crews and Crawley also had to palm away a goal-bound effort from Karavatakis.

Efforts from both La Rocca and Karavatakis continued to be unsuccessful despite some strong signs that a goal would soon arrive and Blacktown was always under pressure in that last 20 minute period.

Then came the blunder by the keeper that made sure there was to be no way back for The Tigers.

Crews played a short ball out with his feet, but directly at Imaya, who took it to the byline and with the keeper drawn already a simple cut back allowed Reid to tap in the team's second goal at the far post.

There was little between the two sides on the night but Blacktown did look very sharp, especial-

ly in the first half hour of the game and it would have been a big effort had Leichhardt been able to wring out a win from this one but in the end they wound up with nothing.

Leichhardt 0
Blacktown 2 (Zlatko Donev 29, David Reid 85)

LEICHHARDT TIGERS: Andrew Crews, Anthony Tesoro (Ross Kethel 67), Joe Moric, Steve Livingstone, Michael Galluzzo, James Stubbs-Mills, Allan Picken (Ryan Jones 69), Steve Karavatakis (Harry James 80), Sam La Rocca, Jeremy Brown, Derek Polimer

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS: John Crawley, Ben Willard, Dane Hokin, Damien Foxe, Mike Smith, Peter Sermanni (Paul Dee 65), Kain Rastall, David Reid, Jim Nikas (Steve Riches 73), Naoki Imaya, Zlatko Donev (Luciano Berbis 80)

CAUTIONS: Jim Nikas 25 (BC), Allan Picken 25 (LT), David Reid 45 (BC), Steve Karavatakis 53 (LT), Michael Galluzzo 86 (twice) (LT), Steve Riches 86 (BC)
Sent Off: Michael Galluzzo 86
Referee: Jonathan Streater
Assistants: Andrew Kay and Luigi Carlucci
Fourth Official: Bryan Seymour



Zak Donev: Blacktown City's clinical finisher.



NSW Premier League



CLUB FOCUS

The Unsung Hero of the Central Coast

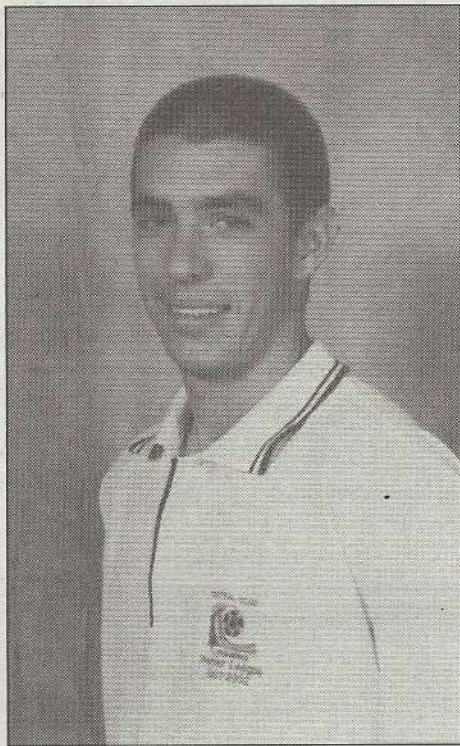
Ray Sandell interviews Coasties under 19 Coach, John McLafferty.

Despite losing his captain and vice captain to the first grade, Coasties under 19 Coach, John McLafferty is more than pleased with the progress his young charges are making and is extremely optimistic that the team can repeat the effort of the club's 2000 under 21 Super League team and go all the way to the Premiership and onto win the Grand Final.

First Grade Coach, Dale Eggleton, promoted both Marc Falzon and Scott Jones to first grade several weeks ago and despite being without their two most experienced players the team has continued on its winning way and is now leading the under 19 competition eight points (as of 1 March 2002).

Rather than be disappointed, McLafferty is extremely pleased that two of his young players have been given the opportunity in the top grade. "After all, that's what youth teams are for isn't it?" said the proud coach.

"It is much better for a club's morale and publicity to give the young blokes a go rather than stack the first grade with high priced experienced players. The youngsters put as much, if not more into the game, in an effort to impress, and it is not a coincidence that since Marc Falzon has been a



Marc Falzon.

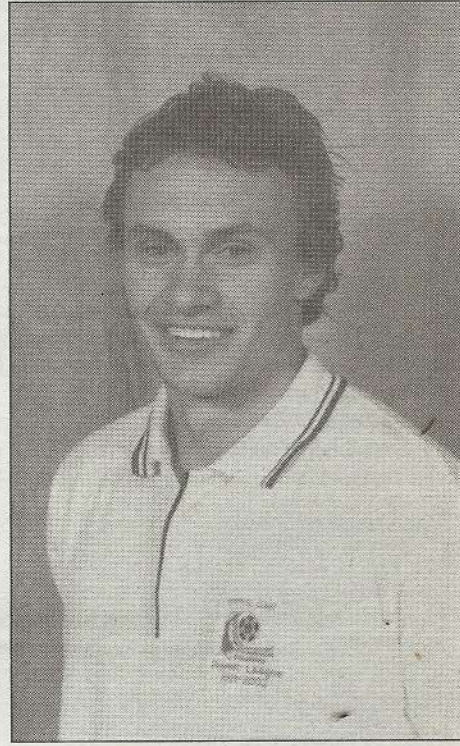
regular in first grade the team has improved greatly. The same for Scott Jones, he has only had a couple of runs so far but you can see how keen he is.

There are another three or four players in the current under 19 side that will also be given their chance in first grade before very long. The good thing with this team is that they all want to learn and listen to what they are told. They enjoy playing together each week and this is showing in the style of football they are presenting and results they are getting."

Nice words from the coach, but John should be taking as much credit as his boys. He has been with the club a number of years and has had many successes with the youth teams. He has had teams from under 14 to under 21 and in 2000 he coached the under 18 Super League team that started off very poorly but made the top five and were narrowly beaten 1-0 in the Grand Final by Leichhardt.

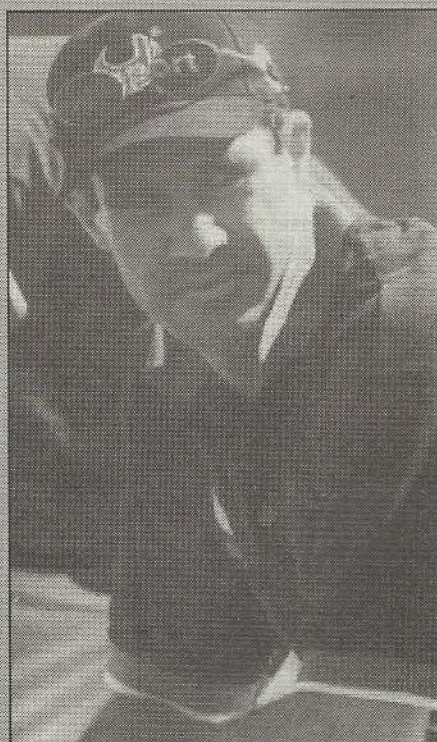
John McLafferty is the unsung hero of the recent successes of the Coasties youth teams but in his eyes it's the kids who should be taking all the credit.

But John, remember the kids only respond well if they are taught and trained well. In John McLafferty they have a very good tutor!



Scott Jones.

Belconnen Blue Devils' Head Coach

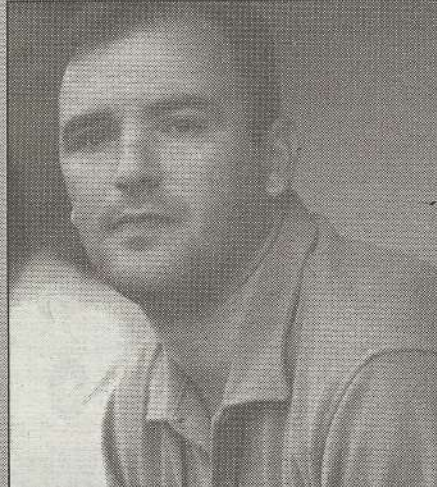


Lino Fiorese

Age: 36
Date of Birth: 23-10-65
Place of Birth: Corryong, Victoria
Nickname: Leans
Marital Status: Married
Year joined club: 1994 (as coach)
Previous clubs: Nil
Favourite music: Rock & roll
Favourite TV Show: Too busy with

family/coaching/training
Favourite movie: Gladiator, Pearl Harbour
Favourite food: Italian
Favourite sporting icon: Pat Rafter
Greatest moment: Birth of my children
2002 Ambition: Successful NSW Premier League Season
Most respected opponent: All
Which team will win the 2002 World Cup: Italy
Who do you rate as the best soccer player in the world: Zinedine Zidane
Who do you rate as the best soccer coach in the world: Alex Ferguson
If you could coach in any competition in the world, which would it be: Italy
What are your interests away from soccer: Fishing, redecorating, gardening
Most annoying habit: Ask my wife!!!
If you could pick an actor to play you in a movie who would it be: Hugh Jackman, David Wenham
If you could take three things on a deserted island what would they be: Fishing rod, matches, sun screen
Where do you see yourself in 10 years time: Renovating my house & participating in my childrens sport
If you were down to your last \$10, how would you spend it: Buy a bottle of red and drink it with my wife
On a plane for 24hrs who would you most like to sit next to: Eddie Murphy
Best coaching advice: Communicate with your coach

St George Saints' Head Coach



Manny Spanoudakis

Age: 34
Date of Birth: 12 June 1967
Place of Birth: Sydney, AUSTRALIA
Nickname: 'Spana'
Marital Status: Married with 3 children
Year joined club: December 2001
Previous clubs: 1st Grade Coach at UTS Soccer Club
Div 4 State League Champions 2001
Div 5 State League Champions 2000
Favourite music: I like all types of music
Depends on the mood, occasion etc.
Favourite TV Show: CSI
Favourite movie: Meet The Parents
Favourite food: Seafood
Favourite sporting icon: Roy Jones Jnr
Greatest moment: The day my kids were born
2002 Ambition: Retain Premier League status with St George in season 2001-2002 and be re-

appointed as Head Coach for 2002-2003 season
Most respected opponent: As a player I tried to show respect to all my opponents. If I had to pick one, probably Zlatko Nastevski from Marconi. I was on the receiving end of quite a few fantastic performances that Zlatko had for Marconi in the early 90s
Which team will win the 2002 World Cup: Argentina
Who do you rate as the best soccer player in the world: Thierry Henry - best striker
Zinedine Zidane - best all round player
Who do you rate as the best soccer coach in the world: Fabio Capello
If you could coach in any competition in the world, which would it be: Italian Serie A
What are your interests away from soccer: Spending time with my family and friends. Theatre, musicals etc. Golf, Sports Management
Most annoying habit: Remote control surfing whilst watching television
If you could pick an actor to play you in a movie, who would it be: Keanu Reeves or Mel Gibson
If you could take three things on a deserted island what would they be: Family, friends and food/water
Where do you see yourself in 10 years time: Hopefully a career as a coach/manager working overseas
If you were down to your last \$10, how would you spend it: Probably give it to my kids
On a plane for 24hrs who would you most like to sit next to: Catherine Zeta Jones or Charlize Theron
Best coaching advice: Education is a continual process. Don't ever forget what it felt like to be a player when you become a coach. Never lose sight of the fact that we are all people first and foremost, then soccer players/coaches



NSW Premier League



SCOREBOARD

ROUND 17

PREMIER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

ST GEORGE SAINTS4

(B Beddoni x 3, G Maglis)

FAIRFIELD BULLS6

(M Hoenselaars x 3, N Bosevski x 2, P Bourke)

BELCONNEN BD2

(D Macor x 2)

PENRITH PANTHERS0

LEICHHARDT TIGERS0

PARRAMATTA EAGLES ..5

(D Kukucka, B Delicata, J Bakis x 2, M Reveley)

BANKSTOWN CITY4

(C Luff, A Mammoliti, F Umlil, D Iocca)

SUTHERLAND SHARKS3

(A Stajic, K Karanasos, B Petrovski)

CENTRAL COAST0

BONNYRIGG WE6

(J Aschner x 3, B Dragas, V Tomasevic, R Gomez)

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS 2

(Z Donev, D Reid)

C'BURY M'VILLE OLYMPIC ..1

(A Amegashie)

UNDER 19

ST GEORGE SAINTS2

FAIRFIELD BULLS2

BELCONNEN BD3

PENRITH PANTHERS3

LEICHHARDT TIGERS0

PARRAMATTA EAGLES ..2

BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS ...3

SUTHERLAND SHARKS1

CENTRAL COAST1

BONNYRIGG WE4

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS 1

C'BURY M'VILLE OLYMPIC ..0

RESCHEDULED RESULTS: PREMIER LEAGUE: ROUND 12: GRADE 19: LEICHHARDT TIGERS 3 FAIRFIELD BULLS 1. ROUND 15: GRADE 19: PARRAMATTA EAGLES 1 BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS 2.

TABLES

FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parramatta Eagles	17	12	1	4	52	20	37
Bonnyrigg WE	16	12	1	3	40	16	37
Belconnen Blue Devils	17	10	2	5	34	24	32
Leichhardt Tigers	17	9	4	4	30	26	31
Blacktown City Demons	17	8	5	4	34	23	29
Fairfield Bulls	16	8	3	5	37	34	27
Bankstown City Lions	17	7	5	5	36	35	26
Canterbury Marrickville	17	5	3	9	22	33	18
Central Coast Coasties	17	4	5	8	17	27	17
Penrith Panthers	17	1	8	8	17	31	11
St George Saints	17	2	4	11	21	42	10
Sutherland Sharks	17	1	3	13	18	47	6

UNDER 19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Central Coast Coasties	17	13	1	3	47	14	40
Blacktown City Demons	17	11	1	5	38	23	34
Parramatta Eagles	17	10	3	4	30	21	33
Leichhardt Tigers	16	10	2	4	31	13	32
Fairfield Bulls	16	8	3	5	36	27	27
Belconnen Blue Devils	17	7	4	6	41	35	25
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	16	6	2	8	24	31	20
Penrith Panthers	16	5	4	7	24	24	19
Canterbury Marrickville	17	5	4	8	18	27	19
St George Saints	17	4	4	9	16	34	16
Bankstown City Lions	17	3	2	12	14	43	11
Sutherland Sharks	17	2	2	13	25	52	8

TOP SCORERS

16 Jimmy Aschner (BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES)

15 Daniel Macor (BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS)

15 Jim Bakis (PARRAMATTA EAGLES)

St George Saints in Action



Bruno Beddoni



Archie Markopoulos



Max Sevares



Mladen Damjanovic



NSW Premier League

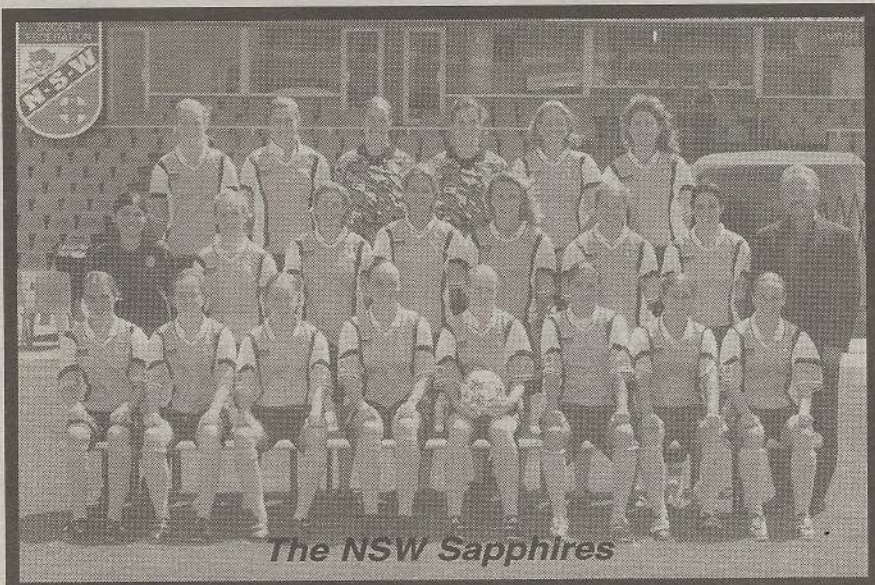


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GOL6 3/02

Growth demands Second Division

By Bert van Bedaf

With the National Soccer League barely surviving, but surely staying for a longer haul after 25 years, the need for a second division is becoming ever greater.

The danger remains that the NSL, in whichever format it will continue over the years, will become an elite entity where only franchised clubs can find a place.

Runaway NSL leader Perth Glory is setting a pace that is threatening to leave clubs behind. In Victoria, Melbourne Knights and South Melbourne are struggling to keep up with the Western juggernaut, although there's a fair chance both clubs will make the finals this season.

No man has a greater vision where Australian soccer should go than Glory chairman Nick Tana. The millionaire businessman continues to pour money into his club with the determined zeal to put his club at the top of the order and drag every other club willing to follow in his footsteps with it.

At \$1 million annually, Tana is investing in the future of the sport in this country with a vision unequalled by others.

He looks eastwards and sees gloom and doom, which



Manny Galanos: Believes a second division could make the National League more exciting.

he says is only of the clubs' own making. He does not believe the excuse that Australian Rules is killing soccer in Victoria.

"Give Melbourne a good product and it will rate through the roof," he recently declared.

The idea in Melbourne is that what the sport needs is incentive, especially through

the establishment of a second NSL division, combined with a promotion/relegation system, running to and from the states and the NSL, which will allow new blood to enter the competitions.

Victorian Soccer Federation chairman Manny Galanos has been pushing the idea for a long time. The need for the Victorian Premier League to move up a step is imperative for growth.

"Our premier league is a quality league. It is vibrant and it is played with tremendous pride and passion. If you finish in the bottom two places, you are relegated (to State League division one) and the only thing that it now requires is for promotion into a second division of the national league.

It also implies there is promotion and relegation from and to the elite NSL. It, after all, is what makes football leagues around most of the world exciting.

It was not so long ago, a decade or so, that Manchester United played in the first division. Only under Sir Alex Ferguson made United a successful return to England's Premier League to become the dominant club in England and again win a European championship.

For several VPL clubs to win the premiership has proved heart breaking only because it earned them nothing but a few thousand dollars.

In 1995, 1996, 1997, Altona Magic was the all-conquering champion, but there was no further reward than doing it all over again - but inevitably money and will ran out.

Similarly, Green Gully won championships in 1999 and 2001 and the Cavaliers had not much more to show for it. Without incentive, the desire leaves club and players and the spirit dies.

Also, there has been the brutal axing of clubs, such as Brunswick United Juventus and Heidelberg United in the mid-1990s.

Brunswick since has died as a VPL club. Heidelberg won the premiership last season and was more than eager to return to a national league level to set new goals and create new enthusiasm.

Formulae how it could work have been advanced at a multiple rate, but the general agreement is that it should work by way of play-offs. The biggest hurdle is how a second division as a conduit between state leagues and the NSL should work.

"We can suggest a fair way of conducting a promotion/relegation system between the state leagues and the national league.

If the idea of VPL promotion is to go ahead, it should be done properly, with promotion criteria," Green Gully president Charles Farrugia said.

He favours the introduction of a national West-South

Australia, Victoria and Tasmania, while the Eastern Conference would represent NSW, ACT, Queensland and possibly New Zealand,"

Farrugia suggested.

"The top four teams in each conference at the end of a 26 round season, would compete in a national league finals, while the last placed team in each conference would play-off in a relegation battle against any promotion candidate," he said.

There are quite a few VPL clubs willing to make the step up. Apart from Green Gully and Heidelberg, there's Bulleen Zebras, Bentleigh Greens, Preston Lions and Whittlesea Stallions are eager-candidates.

Without a rainbow to aim for the road to fortune can only be a dead alley.

Former NSL club Sunshine George Cross is a painful but telling example of what journey to oblivion can lie ahead.

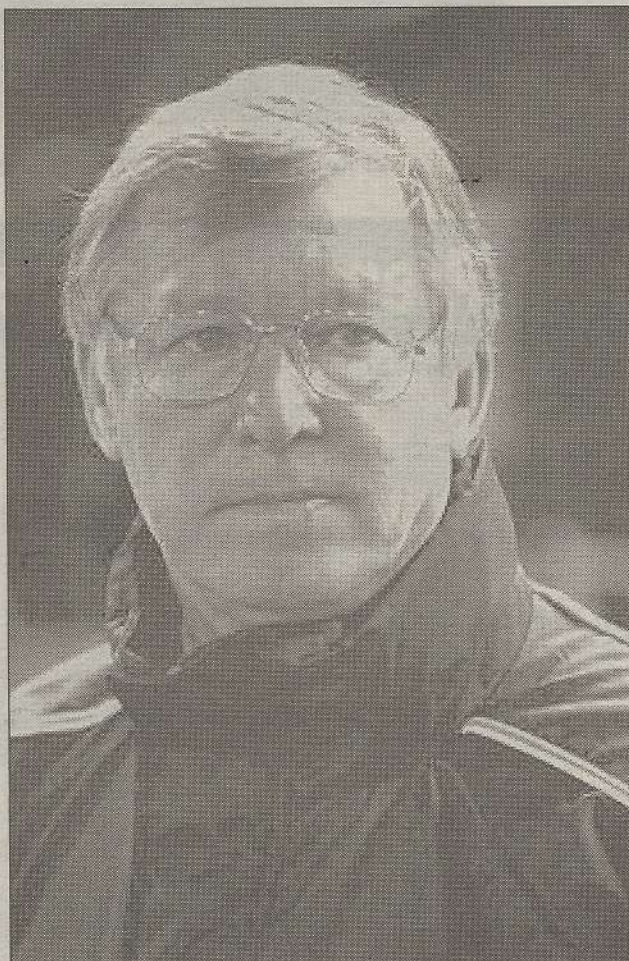
Sunshine went from NSL status to being a VPL force and then down to a State league second division side inside a decade.

"In ten years, we've gone from being an NSL club to a second division team with no future," a shattered club president Alf Zahra said.

There's a lesson in this. When there's no growth, even the best vines wither.



Nick Tana: Believes Soccer can beat AFL in Melbourne, if promoted well.



Alex Ferguson: Took Manchester United from the clutches of the English First Division to Premier League Champions.

Sharks Shred Stallions at Epping



By Bert van Bedaf

The Port Melbourne Sharks shredded the Whittlesea Stallions with a powerful performance, beating the Epping side 3-1 at the VPL's most perfect pitch.

It was 2-0 at half time.

Defunct NSL club Carlton played a few matches at Epping stadium in its last season and drew a good crowd. It was an Olympic-training venue in 2000 when Thomastown as Melbourne Raiders called it their home.

As a boutique soccer venue it has more potential and a more promising future than most of the woe-ful grounds in the premier league.

The Whittlesea Stallions, under president Sam Cuteri, are determined to make it the must-soccer venue for the region. The Stallions have a devoted following and the Epping side already has proved to be an attractive addition to the league.

The Stallions have had a tough run in their first top-flight season, but they haven't fared too badly. A rousing 3-2 win away against the Zebras, a dour 0-0 home draw with Green Gully and a 2-2 draw away with Altona Magic (from a 2-0 lead), tested them severely against three of the league's former champions.

What has held them back is the suspension of Mark Silic. The midfielder was suspended for four weeks at the end of last season and must serve it this season. But he played in the opening game and the Stallions have been put on a good behaviour bond for 12 months for playing a suspended player.

Whittlesea is appealing against the bond and is expected to fight the Victorian Soccer Federation hard over the decision.

"Losing Silic for four matches has already cost us four point. He is most important for us and not being able to play him is bad luck for the club," Cuteri said.

The Stallions came to grief against Port Melbourne, last season's season's minor premier and losing grand finalist. But it had to happen some time.

Both sides came into the game with a formidable strike force. The Stallions had Vas Kalogeracos lurking up front and his opposite Peter Psarros had

been scoring freely for the Sharks. But the goals were left to others.

Igor Mandic and Sam Poutakis (twice) scored for Port, while Joe Tricarico snared a late consolation goal for the Stallions.

After more than two years of battling severe hamstring injuries, Tricarico is coming off the bench, desperately playing himself into a regular striker's spot.

His chance may come when Kalogeracos leaves the Stallions in June. The former South Melbourne and Kingz forward is set to go overseas for 18 games in the premier league.

Despite the first-up loss, Stallions coach Phil Stubbins wasn't too disappointed.

"Putting our four games in context, we haven't had such a bad start. We played a good side and they punished us. We had chances, but we must score more goals than we did," Stubbins said.

If anything Stubbins and his team showed courage by taking the game up to the Sharks and making them work hard for their win. By adding strikers in favour of defenders in the second half, Stubbins took a big risk, but he didn't get wiped for it and earned a goal.

"We put on four strikers and still tried to win the game. But as a result we also got exposed at the back," Stubbins said.

Port coach Harry Chalkitis was pleased to continue his team's winning streak. After a 2-1 opening loss to Green Gully, the Sharks beat Altona Magic 2-1 and gobbled up Heidelberg in a 6-3 goal feast. Their win over the Stallions was not unexpected.

"Result wise, it was a comfortable victory. We created many more chances. We hit the wood work

three times and probably we were good for another four goals," Chalkitis said.

Chalkitis is concerned his players don't get over confident and stick their tasks for 90 minutes, something the Stallions did to their credit.

"The players sat back in the second half. They must have thought the game was over (2-0 at half time)," said Chalkitis, who's keeping the lid on any premiership speculation.

"We're not discussing the top five place. We're just having a go every week and are aiming at finishing in the top three to get the double chance," he said.

Whittlesea is at home to Heidelberg next Friday. "It's our fifth top team in the opening five games. But I'm confident we can bounce back against Heidelberg," Stubbins said.

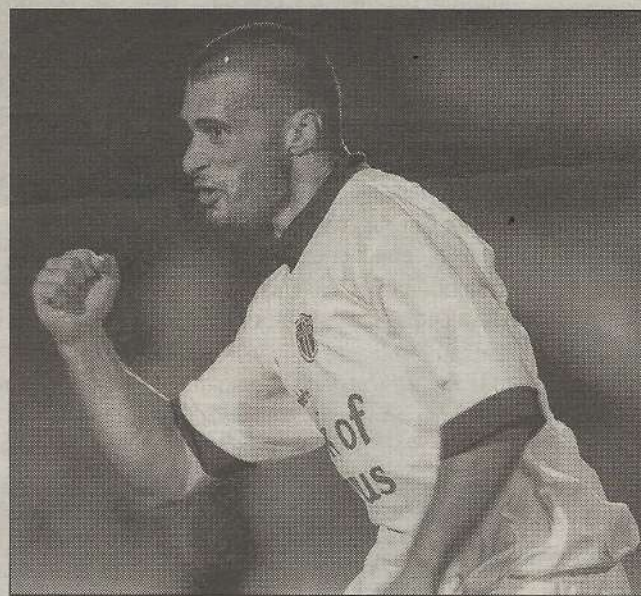
Port Melbourne is at home to the second promoted club Fitzroy City. "It is another club desperate to pick up points," a guarded Chalkitis said.

Preston drew 1-1 with Fawkner at BT Connor Reserve last Sunday. It was a neutral start to Vlado Torteviski's opening game as coach of Preston after considerable upheaval at the Victorian Premier League club during three weeks.

After winning and losing under departed coach Doug Hodgson and unluckily losing under caretaker captain-coach Chis Emovski, Preston made a determined bid to regroup under its new coach.

Torteviski took his team to a result that holds more questions than it answers and patience might be required before the Lions roar again.

It took a 55-minute equaliser by experienced forward Dimce Panev to cancel Fawkner's 25-minute lead, taking the Lions to four points from four rounds.



Vas Kalogeracos: Off to England in June.

"I can't say I'm happy with the result, but for the beginning it's not bad," Torteviski said.

"It was a hard game and we created several chances in the second half.

We tried very hard.

"I think we can play better than we're playing at the moment. We're playing Bulleen on Monday and I'm sure we'll get something out of the game," he said.

Preston visits the Zebras at the Veneto ground on Monday, March 11, 8.15pm. It might just be the promise of a first victory for Preston's newly appointed coach.

TORTEVSKI RETURN TO LIONS' DEN

By Bert van Bedaf

Vlado Torteviski is returning to the Preston Lions after a four-year absence. He'll discover little has changed. Like all good intentions, they are vows at the start of a season and lost dreams at the end of it.

Some of those intentions are shattered a lot earlier and then someone is charged with picking up the pieces. Torteviski has accepted the job of lifting the Lions into a finals position.

He succeeds Doug Hodgson as Preston's senior coach, when the former Sheffield United player walked out of BT Connor Reserve after only two rounds of Victorian Premier League football.

Captain Chris Emovski was caretaker for one game and Torteviski was in charge for the first time last Sunday at home to Fawkner.

Under former Melbourne Knights player and coach Joe Biskic, the Blues are playing a mean brand of football these days and it has been a baptism of significant proportions for Torteviski.

Torteviski left Preston as assistant coach to become coach of Thomastown in the VPL four years ago. He lasted half a season, before being replaced by caretaker and former goalkeeper Mauro Raponi.

Torteviski coached Westgate in the State League for two seasons and won the State League Cup with them. He also spent some time in his native Macedonia.

Now again he's back in Victoria's top league to do the business for the Lions, returning to familiar territory.

"I know a lot of the boys at Preston, when they played for Thomastown. I took them for training last Friday. We have some experienced players," Torteviski described his first assessment of the Lions.

"We are at the beginning of the season. Just how we are going to finish, I don't know. But there won't be any thoughts of relegation (last season's stand-in coach Vlado Vanis saved the Lions from relegation). We're aiming for a possible top-five position," he said.

Torteviski will have his side play an attacking brand of football, which can be as self-defeating as it is attractive. Spectators love to see goals but only by their club and not by the opposition.

"We'll play an attractive type of football, attacking football. The most important thing is that we score goals. I hope we can improve as the season goes on. We should have a good season." A confident Torteviski said.



Action from the Victorian Premier League between Fitzroy City and Altona Magic.

Victorian Premier League 2002

Whittlesea Stallions SC (S. Poutakis, I. Mandic)	3	Port Melb Sharks SC1 (J. Tricarico)	3	Heidelberg Utd SC (Eric Vassiliadis, Sean Cunningham, Steve Mangos)	3	Bentleigh Greens SC 3 (Juan Nilo, Stelios Drakos, Angelo Moutsopoulos)
Fitzroy City SC (Ivan Filiposki)	1	Altona Magic SC	0	Altona East Phoenix SC (Jani Suric, Paul Donnelly)	2	Bulleen Zebras SC (Damir Gnjidic)
St Albans Saints SC	0	Green G. C'liers SC	0	Preston Lions SC (Dimce Panev)	1	Fawkner Blues SC (Tony Stierjovski)

2002 Premier League Ladder - Round 4

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Bentleigh Greens SC	4	3	1	0	7	3	10
2. Port Melbourne Sharks SC	4	3	0	1	12	7	9
3. Fawkner Blues SC	4	2	2	0	7	4	8
4. Green Gully Cavaliers SC	4	2	2	0	3	1	8
5. Altona East Phoenix SC	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
6. Whittlesea Stallions SC	4	1	2	1	6	7	5
7. Altona Magic SC	4	1	1	2	8	6	4
8. Preston Lions SC	4	1	1	2	6	5	4
9. Fitzroy City SC	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
10. St Albans Saints SC	4	1	1	2	1	4	4
11. Bulleen Zebras SC	4	0	1	3	4	7	1
12. Heidelberg United SC	4	0	1	3	8	18	1

ROUND 5

FRI, 8 MAR, 8:15 PM

Port Melbourne Sharks SC vs. Fitzroy City SC

Whittlesea Stallions SC vs. Heidelberg United SC

SUN, 10 MAR, 6:00 PM

Green Gully Cavaliers SC vs. Altona East Phoenix SC

MON, 11 MAR, 5:00 PM

Fawkner Blues SC vs. Bentleigh Greens SC

MON, 11 MAR, 7:30 PM

Altona Magic SC vs. St Albans Saints SC

MON, 11 MAR, 8:15 PM

Bulleen Zebras SC vs. Preston Lions SC

Grassroots prepared to wear levy



By Bert van Bedaf

There are telethons and telethons, but in whatever form they come, they've always proved to be a handy money-spinner.

Soccer Australia has decided upon a levy-a-thon to rake in much needed cash. It comes as a direct result of the independent investigation into its finances by Price waterhouse Coopers.

The report has largely remained secret apart from a carefully worded and Sanitised statement by Soccer Australian January 18. It concluded on the curious line, "The (Soccer Australia) board has referred the report to Deacons Solicitors, who have advised against releasing the report in its entirety or releasing all the recommendations. The board has reluctantly accepted this advice."

The report recommended means of "short-term financing" of the national body in place of sponsorship, which needed to be found.

To meet those requirements, Soccer Australia has decided to raise its registration fees and charges a levy on junior (\$6-50) and senior (\$12-00) players, contracted coaches and

Olyroos, Joeys, Matildas and Futsal.

Since 500,000 enthusiasts play soccer around Australia, close to \$2 million are expected to boost Soccer Australia's

lucky in Queensland, where opposition to the levy has been unequivocal, but New South Wales and Victoria have given it the nod.

"I think, we can all benefit, if

impact of the cost on the grassroots of the sport, but we still feel the fees are at a reasonable level," he said.

Grass roots Victoria reacted with mixed emotions in the local media.

"If it benefits Soccer Australia in general and it will wipe out the debt, so be it," said John Aaron-Nakic, president of the juniors at the Melbourne Knights.

"Placing a levy of players from juniors to professionals is an easy option for administrators," observed Western Suburbs club spokesman Nick Hatzoglou.

Victorian Premier League club Green Gully president Charles Farrugia agreed with the levy, believing clubs would "accept it for the sake of soccer's future in Australia". Sponsorship is not there for soccer," Farrugia said, pointing to other sports, such as AFL and rugby where Sponsor ship dollars roll in.

In the country leagues, where money doesn't grow on trees and the economy isn't as rosy as Peter Costello believes it is, the registration levy means a major sacrifice.

"As long as the money is used to promote the sport and it is not spent wrongly, it can be quite good," said Sharon Yosh, outgoing president of the Shepparton Junior Soccer Association.

"We hear the levy is good for the game," said Cameron Plant, president of the Kyneton

District soccer club.

"But I think, there's no doubt, it will affect some people and we'll have to accommodate that the best we can," he said.

What also has not as yet been resolved is whether Soccer Australia will raise the price of NSL tickets. Knop has referred to it as the "spectator component" (of raising funds).

Soccer clubs and participants might agree to wear a fee increase for the sake of the sport, but it is doubtful whether the average punter is going to accept higher gate prices. It might result in even more spectators staying away from matches than they are doing already.



Tom Doumanis: Soccer Federation NSW President willing to help out Soccer Australia's cause.

players (\$35-00) - and possibly on paid referees (\$35-00). This is still under discussion.

The funds will go towards covering a burgeoning deficit of \$2.7 million and the cost of running national teams, from the Socceroos down to

coffers annually. It won't be enough to wipe all costs, about \$6.6 million for the national teams alone, but it will make a sizeable sum to put a dent in the debt and to start building for a healthier future.

The levy was one of Soccer Australia chairman Ian Knop's key reasons for an ambassadorial tour of the nation and canvassing stakeholders in all states.

In a series of selected interviews, Knop outlined the reasons for Slugging kids to pay for the excesses of the games adults also play.

"In 1989, when we introduced the development fee (which charged juniors and amateurs \$2-20), Soccer Australia ran two or three national teams. Now we run eight teams. We've been under-funded for a long time. In the short term, some of the money will be used to service our debt, but not in the long term," Knop explained.

In a recent statement, Soccer Australia emphasised, "The increase is only part of a much wider reform program, which aims to strengthen and unify our sport at the grassroots level."

Knop's argument has largely been accepted. He wasn't so

we can free Soccer Australia of its cycle of financial insolvency," NSW federation chairman Tom Doumanis commented.

"We're not over the moon about it, but without the levy the game will go backwards," Victorian Soccer Federation chairman Manny Galanos said early February.

"We support Ian Knop and the (Soccer Australia) board and we believe in what they're doing for the game.

"But, while we'll be collecting the levy, it is important that the VSF keeps checks and balances on Soccer Australia and (watches) what the money is being used for," he said.

VSF chief executive Geoff Miles said the federation had "reluctantly endorsed" the levy, because "it has no alternative."

"If it had not been possible to raise the funds, it would have meant the collapse of Soccer Australia and loss of FIFA status. So, the VSF reluctantly agreed to pass on the cost," Miles said.

"But we have looked towards Soccer Australia to be very accountable for the financial planning (of the fees), so that the sport is not placed in this position again.

"We're conscious of the

What do you think about the Soccer Levy? Have your say... write back to us.

Letters to the Editor

**P.O. Box 155
Marrickville.
NSW. 1475
approx. 300
words or less
Type print only**



Ian Knop: Proposed the Soccer levy.



Manny Galanos: Victorian Soccer Federation Chairman supporting Ian Knop's plan on the Soccer levys.

Anger Over the 2002 ACT Federation Cup

By Graham Cooke

The draw for the 2002 Federation Cup was made last week amid what has become an annual row over whether justice has been done to one of the ACT's oldest competitions.

This year it was coupled with grumbling over the format, in which the early rounds of the competition are played on a group basis, with knockouts in the later stages.

The problem has existed since the early 1990s when the Autumn and Fraser shields, long-running and respected pre-season competitions, were abandoned, and the Federation Cup, which had previously been run in FA Cup style through the main part of the season, substituted.

This immediately angered the purists who believed the Cup, first contested in 1962, had been downgraded. The arguments have been continuing ever since.

Last week Monaro coach Tony Brennan was echoing the familiar refrain "If I were a sponsor, I would not be happy," he said. It's too early in the season and players will not be fit. Let's treat the Cup

with a bit of respect."

Weston Creek Royals have boycotted the competition, the first Premiership club in recent times not to compete. Club spokesman Chris Tanner described it as 'a joke'.

Even those who have not weighed into the pre-season argument are unhappy with the format, which is part seeding, part luck of the draw. Last season's four semi-finalists were seeded into separate

groups, but an open draw afterwards left one group with three of the four teams from the Premiership, and two with just one.

The so-called Group of Death consists of Cup-holders Gungahlin Juventus, minor premiers Canberra Deakin, Monaro and the luckless ANU State League 3 side.

By contrast, Capital City Suns, who line up against O'Connor

Knights, Southern Tablelands from Goulburn, and ANU's State League 1 side, should cruise into the quarter finals.

Belconnen United also have no Premiership company in the third group, but here their task may be harder against newcomers Canberra Olympic (State League 1) boasting an array of old, but vastly experienced stars, along with Cooma and Burns Club.

Finally Tuggeranong United and Canberra Olympic mix it with University of Canberra and Canberra City.

Two preliminary matches have already been played to get the number down to 16. Canberra Olympic (SL1) beat Burns Club (SL4) 6-1 and ANU (SL3) beat Queanbeyan City (SL1) 5-1 in the first upset of the season.

The Cup format has been largely dictated by the need to find more games for Premiership teams now the competition has been reduced to eight clubs, but with the controversy continuing, consideration ought to be given to reinstating the dormant pre-season Autumn and Fraser shields and running the Federation Cup as a straight knock-out during the main season.



The Federation Cup draw was announced last week. Left to right: Greg Cornwall, (former Assembly Speaker), Walter Valeri (Soccer League Chairman), Bill Stefaniak (former Sports Minister), Steve Doszpot (Soccer Canberra Chairman).

A 'Real' Soccer Follower

By Graham Cooke

As the Chinese would say, Mahmood Yazarlou has had an interesting life. Barred from returning to his native Iran after the revolution that toppled the Shah, he traveled in the Middle East, Africa and Pakistan before ending up in Australia as an interpreter for the Department of Immigration.

His love of football remained constant during those troubled years, and last week, although long past his best, he was on the field again, leading a team of fellow Iranian refugees, the White Doves, in a match against a South American XI for the second ACT Refugee Cup.

"Soccer unites us all," he said before the game. "We played one match in 2000 and last year it looked like we would get more teams with interest shown by the Afghans and Arabs."

"But after the Tampa incident and September 11 those two teams went to ground, so we are back to just the one game."

"I don't think I will ever go back to Iran now - my mother passed away recently and the rest of the family are over here - but I hope I never lose my passion for soccer. At 46 I am the oldest in the side but I've played all my life and I don't think age is that important."

Playing at full back Yazarlou had a strong game, but the South Americans, who play regularly together in the lower divisions of the ACT State League, were too strong for the

Doves and ran out 7-2 winners.

The ACT manager of game sponsors Austcare, Stephanie Koorey, said the matches were part of the organisation's Kicking a Path to Freedom campaign.

"Soccer has an international appeal, and Austcare works across the world, so there was a great link," she said. "The games raise money for our projects, which includes helping refugees and landmine survivors."

In an earlier match the ACT President's XI beat the Canberra Diplomatic Corps 4-3 in the Friendship Cup series.



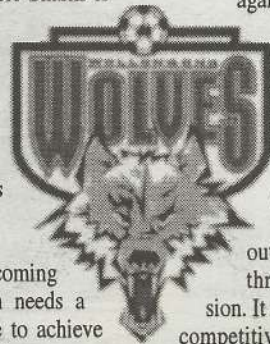
Mahmood Yazarlou his love for football is flawless.

Wollongong News

By Otto Bader

Wolves On Edge - discussing the present position of the side's placing on the competition table, there seems to be a small mathematical chance to make the top six, provided the game against final contenders Olympic Sharks is won. Coach Ron Corry uses a bit of gamesmanship evaluating his team's chances with five games to go, the BYE coming up. The team needs a minor miracle to achieve a top-end position.

The Wolves played seven draws this season so far which could be seen as victories and two points missed per game, total 14 points added to their present 22



points, could have lifted the team well into second spot.

The Friday night's game against Olympic Sharks is a do-or-die effort, a win opens up final possibilities, a loss ends all hopes. According to Wolves media officer and current Wolves striker Stuart Young, if his team can win the remaining five matches against their much

fancied opponents, they deserve to be in the finals. No injury worries at the club, only Buddy Farah, out for one week through suspension. It promises to be a competitive contest, the Olympic Sharks in third spot on 30 points, the Wolves in 9th place on 22 points, four points adrift from the top six.

Negotiations with several senior players are going ahead, word on who is staying will be announced in the following weeks prior to the end of the National League season. Should the opportunity of making the play-offs fade, the coach may drop players not intending to stay with the club and bring more young talents into the last few matches.

Two well performing strikers from the Youth side, Liam Austin and Ned Aleksic have come to the attention of Wolves coach Ron Corry. These boys look set to make up the future squad for the Wolves in coming years.

Illawarra Soccer - has organised a pre-season soccer launch at the

Fraternity Club on Wednesday night 13th March. All 28 member clubs are invited, and are asked to nominate two players in club colours to show the home and away strip during the evening.

Light supper and refreshments are available, no charge. It is expected that at least two delegates per club are to attend plus the two players. The 2002 soccer season is planned to kick-off on the Easter weekend - Saturday 30th March with the ICU Premier League and the ICU First Division - contested by 12 and 16 clubs respectively. On first glance it looks like two equally balanced competitions.

In Premier League a battle of survival will in September decide the placing of clubs - the champion or last two in danger of relegation. The First Division looks for the top two spots, eligible for promotion. As usual, competition is close with no certain favourite. In Premier League last year's minor premier Port Kembla will be hard pressed by Kemblawarra, Coniston Lions, West Illawarra, Cringila and the rest of the teams.

At present all clubs are preparing their squads using trials to test new signings in an effort to establish a force full strike force. Soccer coaches all over Illawarra are using their experience and knowledge to attract players of quality. Who wants to be a club coach with all the expectations and pressure from the followers of the club they fancy? The promoted clubs try to survive the early onslaught, in

Conference League everybody tries to collect early points. It promises an interesting soccer season.

ISA Soccer News - the weekly soccer write-ups published in local free paper The Lake Times, sometimes in the Advertiser and the Australian Soccer Weekly, can now be accessed on Soccer Illawarra's own website: www.soccerillawarra.asn.au, thus providing the opportunity for those fans not receiving above papers.

On a regular basis local soccer results and general news are published weekly in the Sydney based soccer paper The Australian & British Soccer Weekly under Wollongong News (available at your news-agency) and the southern free paper The Lake Times. The Illawarra Mercury sparely brings local soccer, mainly focused on other sports, much to the frustration of thousands of soccer interested readers who look daily for their beloved sport to be mentioned.

Grandstand Naming Question - quite some discussions among various football supporters caused interest to name the new northern grandstand at WIN Stadium after one or the other famous local sports hero.

The Trust will make a decision in due time and is in a no win position - one would miss out disappointing his/her fans.

Some are passionate and yours truly received a call from an irate fan expressing his views of other sports pre-

ferred, not happy at all with the Mercury's back-page story regarding the naming of the northern grandstand, published last Wednesday.

Rugby League needed soccer to justify an application to the NSW Government for funds to develop the Stadium. Local soccer was satisfied to stay at Brandon Park but somehow the Wolves were talked into moving to WIN Stadium - still not accepted by all soccer people.

The League claims with some justice older rights to occupy the Stadium and thus needed other sports to secure finances assisting the Trust to obtain Government help. Soccer is contracted to stay at WIN Stadium and for years to come, probably has to.

Some die-hard supporters want a say in the naming, right-proposals considering former Australian great Bob Bignell who played both Rugby League and Soccer for Australia. The issue could create opposing passionate pleas even though the northern grandstand is far from complete.

Really considering success stories in town, the northern stand can only be called "Wolves Stand" after the twice national champions, putting the City of Wollongong on the map, to be noticed by all. How could one even forget such success and consider somebody else. Debate is going to heat up judging by letter to the Editor.

Corrimal Leagues Club Knock-out - results from round three from the

four grounds, involving a total of 32 teams (Amateurs included) contesting the event now in it's 40th year.

Dapto v Berkeley 1:1, Balgownie v St. Elias Old Boys 5:0, Fernhill v Kemblawarra 2:2, Port Kembla v Aborigines Soccer team 4:2, Helensburgh v Corrimal Rangers 2:1, Lysaght v Highlands 1:1, Tarrawanna v Warilla Wanderers 6:0, South Coast United v Kiama 1:5, Shoalhaven City v Shellharbour City 2:0, Bulli v Port Pumas 1:0, Coniston v Bellambi 2:1, Picton v University 4:1, West Illawarra v Ruse 6:2, Wollongong Olympic v Woonona 6:0, Albion Park White Eagles v Northern United 8:1.

Group Winners advancing to the next knock-out stage are Balgownie, Bulli, Helensburgh, West Illawarra, Port Kembla, Kemblawarra, Coniston and Picton Rangers. Only one first division club Helensburgh reached the quarter finals, all others are Premier League teams of which five missed out. The eight survivors play now in a knock-out format to reach the finals, semi-finals and eventual last day to contest for the money prize.

Special Club Meeting - the soccer association reminds all 28 member clubs to attend a special meeting called for Tuesday 12th March at the Fraternity Club. The agenda is known with a decision required considering the recent appeal as to the make-up of the competitions.



Liam Austin: Young exciting star set to make a name for himself in next season's National League.

New Goalkeeper Coach - well known former goalkeeper star Fabio Fabrianesi is introducing coaching clinics to sharpen the skills of any ambitious young keepers. Advertising is to appear shortly with details and contact numbers.

Fabio is qualified with an advanced pass in Senior Licence, dealing in the methodology of coaching principles, practical demonstrations, laws of the game as well as looking back on a long playing experience with various local, state, and national league soccer clubs. Fabio also spent some time in Italy playing in several divisions, ending his career a couple of years ago, now concentrating on goalkeeper coaching, both seniors and juniors.

Referee Quiz - name your answer = Advertising on corner flags, right/wrong?

Ted Simmons: Under the Microscope

This week, ABSW's Ben Moring caught up with the man responsible for Australian soccer's hall of fame, Ted Simmons.

Ted Simmons is a true advocate of Australian soccer. His long and distinguished career in soccer began over half a century ago. Simmons has been responsible for such awards as 'The Oceania Player of the Year', in which Frank Farina won the inaugural prize in 1988.

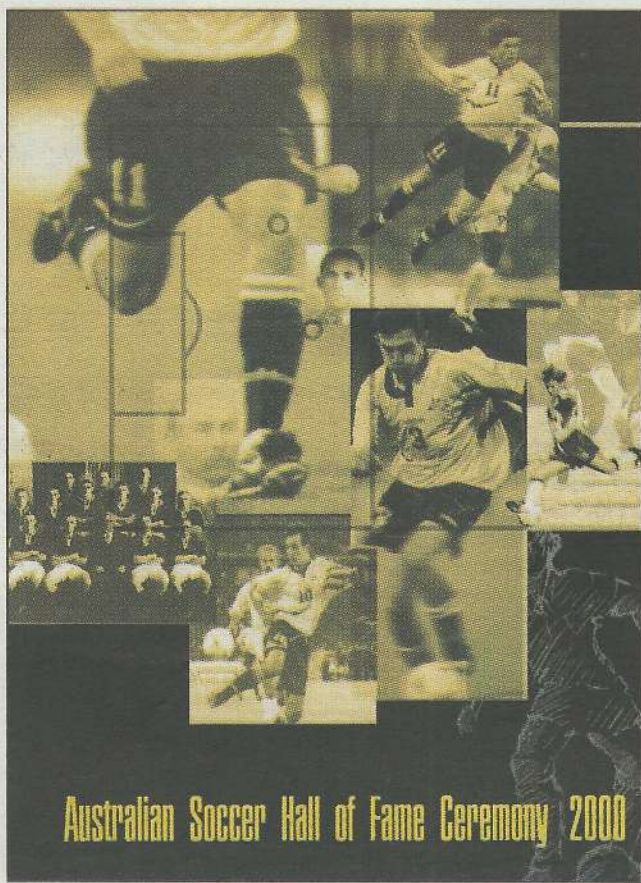
Simmons was also the inspiration for the National Soccer League's 'Player of the Year', 'Under 20s Player of the Year', 'Coach of the Year' and 'Referee of the Year' back in 1977.

His work as an esteemed member of AAP's writing staff has seen him clock up numerous miles. Simmons has travelled with Socceroos squads, Olyroos squads and Joeys squads on numerous occasions.

In 1980 Ted Simmons sought to honour Australian soccer's influential characters and set about on a quest to create a hall of fame. That dream came true on the 28th February 1999, with the inaugural induction of some 80 members to Soccer Australia's hall of fame.

1) What was the motivating factor in establishing the hall of fame?

What got me more than anything else was that players, coaches, referees, media or club officials were not recognised for what they did. If it wasn't for these people, there would be no game



Australian Soccer Hall of Fame Ceremony 2000

Hall of Fame Publication: A sample shot of the work Ted Simmons produces for the Hall of Fame.

and so it was important to recognise these people.

2) What has been the response to the hall of fame?

There was a general consensus of approval that soccer officialdom had taken a step in the right direction in the establishment, promotion and welfare of the game's workers.

3) Is there any aspect of the hall of fame that hasn't satisfied its purpose?

My biggest disappointment has been the lack of response, maybe through the lack of promotion. It's my belief that there is still 'x'

number of people that should be recognised, but won't be if they are not nominated.

4) What does the induction into the hall of fame mean to the inductees?

Alan Davidson (ex-Socceroo) stated that it was magic, he had all his family and friends present with him to share in the experience.

Rale Rasic was so emotional that his team (1974 World Cup qualifying Socceroos) were officially recognised. They had been on laps of honour before, but now they had a certificate to honour them and a place in Australian soccer history.

The ABC's Martin Royal was emotionally overcome, as he never expected to be recognised for his work.

My stubbornness and dedication was worthwhile when I see these reactions.

5) Have you sole responsibility for selection of inductees?

There is a selection committee, which decides upon the merit of the candidates.

The selection panel consists of myself, Chairman Don Di Fabrizio, ex-Socceroo Ted Smith and journalist Fred Villiers.

Their comments are intelligent, unbiased and they are

great to work with.

6) In general terms, what makes a good candidate?

We believe that recognition should be given to people who have gone outside their local boundaries, suburbs or states and who have promoted the sport in the national sphere for the benefit of Australian soccer.

We look at national activities, services and contribution to soccer as a whole.

7) Who are some of the inductees?

John Walter Fletcher was the first person inducted, whose work started back in 1875. Other people to be inducted includes Arthur Gibbs, Harry Doherty, James Masters, Reggie Date, Joe Marsden, Bob Bignall, John Warren, Peter Wilson, John Kosmina, Les Scheinflug, Frank Arok, Zoran Matic, Rale Rasic and recently Frank Farina, Alan Davidson, David Ratcliffe and Patricia O'Connor.

We honour both men and women.

We were working on the basis that soccer was introduced in Sydney in August 1880. We were looking at 120 years of soccer history and we didn't feel it would be fair to just induct post-war people.

8) Are there different classes of awards?

For the players, there are three standards.

The first is induction into the 'Hall of Champions', second is the 'Medal of Excellence' and third the 'Award of Distinction'.

For non-players, there are two categories. 'The Role of Honour for Distinguished Contribution' and 'The Role of Honour for Meritorious Contribution.'

9) Can the hall of fame inspire young soccer players?

Yes, anything that promotes the game on a positive level and entices young people through role models is inspiring.

Role models like Harry Kewell, Mark Viduka and

Mark Bosnich, who is a great example of a goalkeeper (despite some of his recent short comings). Young people are seeing these people doing something good and enjoying it.

The youth can see the Farina's and Arnold's giving

10) Will there be any new projects on the horizon?

I'd like to see the creation of an Australian soccer museum, with exhibition items on display from Australian soccer history.

The museum would be the



Frank Farina: Current Socceroo coach apart of the Hall of Fame set-up.

back to the game after playing and remaining role models.

So they too can see there is a life in the game after playing.

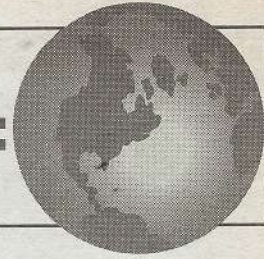
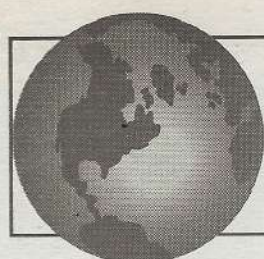
ultimate goal, with the continuation of the hall of fame, which I'm sure, would continue now that it has been established.



Ted Simmons: Shown here with Dutch legend Johan Cryuff.



Les Scheinflug: Former Australian coach rewarded in the Hall of Fame after countless years as head coach.



O'Leary may be compelled to sell players if he fails to finish in top four this season

David O'Leary fears failure to qualify for the Champions League could be the excuse for a mass exodus of top stars from Leeds United AFC at the end of the season.

He admitted for the first time that missing out on the elite competition could end in the disintegration of the team he has spent three years building.

The Leeds manager has already been warned by the club's owners that he will have to sell players to help repay the pounds 96million

funding he has received for the transfer market if he does not finish in the top four this season.

But his greater concern is that Harry Kewell, Olivier Dacourt and Mark Viduka will all be knocking on the door in the summer demanding to be released from long-term contracts to gain money-spinning moves to the Continent.

Barcelona, Juventus, Inter Milan and Real Madrid have all been monitoring the trio and are ready to step in at the end of the season if O'Leary fails to deliver.

He said: "Bids will come in for the players one way or the other and personally I think the Champions League is just an excuse.

"If the players want to go they will go, whether they are in the Champions League or not next season. It is as simple as that and there is nothing we can do about it."

With the tie precariously balanced after the 0-0 draw in Eindhoven, O'Leary knows the pressure is mounting from fans and the club's financiers to deliver. He said: "The players know this is their last chance

in terms of winning something.

"The people that employ me want to be in the top four and the Champions League because that is where the money is.

"The fans want to see us running around with a trophy, but ultimately getting in the Champions League would win me more brownie points.

"If I won the UEFA Cup and didn't get into the Champions League I would have underachieved as far as the people in the city are concerned.

"Personally I would take that but it might not be good enough for some."



Olivier Dacourt may be one to leave Leeds if sweeping changes to be place.

BERLUSCONI TO STAND DOWN

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi is set to stand down as president of AC Milan after the country's parliament passed a conflict of interest bill.

While his name may be removed from the list of club officials, his family's financial empire is expected to go on owning the Serie A club.

Berlusconi, whose 16 years as Milan president have seen the club claim three European Cups and six Italian league titles, confirmed his impending departure after a meeting with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban in Budapest.

Asked whether the passage of the bill, which will become law once it has been approved by the Senate, meant he would now have to give up his role as club president Berlusconi said: "I said that a few days ago and even announced it".

Berlusconi opened a conference of his Forza Italia political party last week by saying that he was not sure how long he would remain at the club.

The proposed law does not stop Berlusconi's family holding company Fininvest from continuing to own the club.

Nor would it stop his son Piersilvio from taking over as president — a move widely predicted in the Italian media.

Berlusconi said he had not yet considered the possible involvement of his son.

"No, I don't know, we haven't thought about it yet," he told reporters in Budapest.

Berlusconi, a businessman-turned-politician, won a comprehensive election victory last May with his conservative Forza Italia party — itself named after a soccer chant.

As well as being Italy's richest man, his family owns the country's largest media group, which has left him exposed to accusations that his actions as prime minister could conflict with his personal and wide-ranging financial concerns.

The new bill proposes to resolve the conflict by creating a watchdog out of the existing anti-trust authority which would then alert parliament to any problems.

The legislation has been heavily criticised as "toothless" by the centre-left opposition.

Although Berlusconi will now be expected to stand down from his role at Milan, the changes are not expected to affect his media empire.

Since focusing on his political activities, Berlusconi's once high-profile appearances at the club's Milanello training ground and San Siro stadium have

become increasingly rare.

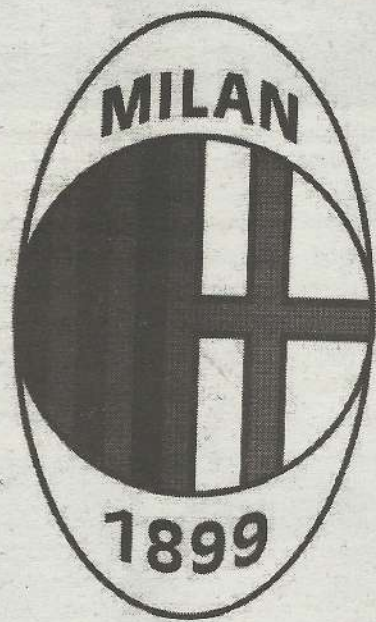
Berlusconi's success at Milan, who under coach Arrigo Sacchi won consecutive European Cups in 1989 and 1990 playing some of the best football the game has seen, helped shape his popular image as a winner who gets things done.

He is also considered to have been a major player in the changes in European football that saw the Champions League set up in 1992 to replace the old knockout European Cup.

But it is eight years since Milan won a European competition and their last domestic honour was the league championship in 1999.

The club has changed coach three times in the past year as they struggle to challenge rivals AS Roma and Juventus.

Carlo Ancelotti's side are currently sixth in the Serie A.



CHIEVO STRIKER DIES IN CAR CRASH

Italian football was in a state of shock on Saturday after news that Chievo star Jason Mayele had been killed in an early-morning car crash.

Chievo's match at Parma on Sunday has been called off as a mark of respect.

The Congo DR international is the second Serie A star to be killed in a car crash this year. Brescia's Vittorio Mero died in January while travelling to watch his side play at Parma.

Mayele died in Bussolengo hospital soon after being involved in a head-on collision. The driver of the other vehicle, a 61-year-old woman, was killed instantly.

The accident happened at 8.15am local time as the player was making his way to the club's ground. He was then due to join team-mates at a funeral service for Eugenio Corini's father, who died on Wednesday.

Mayele was driving his fiancée's Fiat Barchetta when the fatal head-on smash occurred at a notorious accident-blackspot, close to Lake Garda.

Mayele, born in Kinshasa but raised in France, was an integral part of Chievo's amazing success at the beginning of the 2001-02 season.

Starting in the French third division with Brunoy, the striker or attacking midfielder joined second division Chateauroux aged just 17, and helped them win promotion in 1997.

The following season ended in relegation and a year later he moved to Cagliari in Serie A, but again he experienced relegation.

After one year in Serie B, he joined the newly promoted Chievo.

A Congo DR international, Mayele represented his country at the recent African Nations Cup.

KEANE TO STAY WITH UNITED

Manchester United captain Roy Keane has followed coach Sir Alex Ferguson's lead by agreeing a new deal which will tie him to Old Trafford until June 2006.

Keane hinted in the summer that this season could be his last with the English champions, but the Republic of Ireland midfielder confirmed on Saturday that he will put pen to paper shortly.

"I am delighted to be staying at United and I am looking forward to enjoying even more success with the team over the next few years," he said.

"I would like to thank the club and my solicitor, Michael Kennedy, for making the whole process of negotiating my new contract go so smoothly," added the 30-year-old.

The announcement comes less than 48 hours after Ferguson finalised his new three-year deal and the Scottish coach admitted that Keane's decision had capped a fantastic week for the club.

"This is great news," Ferguson told PA. "Roy is an unbelievable player whose lead-

ership, passion and drive epitomise the best qualities of Manchester United. I am really pleased to have Roy on board for another four years."

United chief executive Peter Kenyon added: "We are absolutely delighted to be signing Roy to a new contract. He is a fantastic player and we never doubted he wanted to stay at United."



Roy Keane will stay at Manchester United till 2006.

"With our inspirational captain now signed up until 2006 the continuity and stability which is so important to United's success is guaranteed."

Ferguson and Kenyon will now be hoping that England captain David Beckham will follow suit. The midfielder is in the middle of negotiations with the issue of image rights still to be resolved.

Nevertheless, news that Keane is staying will come as a massive relief, particularly after the Irishman stated last April that he was keen to finish his career at Celtic.

"I've said I would like to play at Celtic at some stage in my career," he said last year. "In two years' time, when my contract is up, if United say I can go, then Celtic is the club I would like to play for. I've been up there a few times and I think it's an outstanding club with an outstanding manager."

Keane signed for United from Nottingham Forest for a then British record transfer fee of £3.75 million in 1993. He has made 349 appearances for the champions, scoring 49 goals.



CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



Real first team through to Quarter Finals

**ROMA 3
BARCELONA 0**

Roma climbed to the top of Champions' League group B and are favourites to progress to the quarter-finals after they turned on a splendid second half display to overwhelm Barcelona at the Stadio Olimpico.

After Fabio Capello had replaced Marco Delvecchio with Vincenzo Montella at the beginning of the second half, the Italian champions took wing.

Jose Reina plucked a Montella cross from the head of the disappearing Batistuta. Montella had a goal ruled out because of a foul by the Argentinian, and Francesco Totti was only denied by a great save from Reina, before the Giallorossi finally took the lead just after the hour.

Totti fed Vincent Candela from the right, and the Frenchman's low shot cannoned off Emerson and span fortuitously into the corner. Totti thought he'd made it two three minutes later, only for the linesman to rule that Batistuta was offside, and it was only when the former Fiorentina player had been

lead on 31 minutes. The Norwegian, celebrating his 29th birthday, took a simple chance after Denis Irwin had freed Van Nistelrooy on the right of the box with a reverse pass.

The Dutchman's centre found Giggs, who nodded back for Solskjaer to make it 2-1.

Silvestre gave United breathing-space with another header on 37 minutes, this one from Beckham's right-wing free-kick as the Nantes back-line crumbled.

The Frenchman was among a posse of home players at the far post to bullet the ball into the roof of the net.

United were happy to sit back before striking on the break and made it 4-1 on 64 minutes when Van Nistelrooy broke away, only to be dragged back by Fabbri.

The defender escaped without so much as a caution, but Van Nistelrooy blasted home the resulting spot-kick before he was replaced by Diego Forlan.

No 5 duly arrived on 78 minutes when Beckham's wickedly-delivered free-kick from the left brushed Solskjaer's brow and flew across the exposed Landreau into the far corner.



Juve's Alessandro Del Piero is felled by Nouredine Naybert.

start of the second half when a delightful Danny Murphy flick put him clear inside the box but Mondragon scrambled away his left foot shot.

Liverpool looked for a time as though they would take over and on the hour Riise forced a save from Mondragon in a position that was almost a carbon copy of Owen's previous effort.

But then Galatasaray pulled themselves together and mounted a wave of sustained attacks. On 70 minutes the reward came as Victoria chipped in a floating cross from the left and Radu Niculescu nipped ahead of Stephane Henchoz to glance home a header.

Jari Litmanen set up the equaliser eleven minutes from time. The Galatasaray defence made a hash of clearing a long Riise throw from the left. The ball bobbed up into the air and Litmanen knocked it down for Heskey to slam home from close range.

**BAYERN 1
BOAVISTA 0**

Bayern Munich struggled for over 70 minutes to break down a tactically superior Boavista side who wasted fine chances before Roque Santa Cruz's header nine minutes from time clinched victory for the Germans.

Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld stretched his impressive unbeaten run of Champions' League home games to 27, but Jaime Pacheco will bemoan his team's poor finishing that could have secured them a better result.

Boavista started with impressive self-confidence and after surprising Bayern's static defence, could have opened their account on two minutes when Martelinho broke through on the left, but fired wide.

Bayern's best chance came when Oliver Kahn's long ball found Elber who set up Mehmet Scholl, but he could not beat the alert Ricardo with his chip. Elber's attempt shortly before the half hour was blocked by Erivan.

The second half started in similar fashion, Bayern enjoying most

of the possession, but the visitors looking the sharper on the break and again they should have scored early on when Alexandre Goulart, on for Elpidio Silva, hit the post as he evaded a double-challenge from Sammy Kuffour and Robert Kovac.

With Boavista tiring, Bayern increased the pressure and created several clear-cut chances. Pizarro's shot bounced back from the inside of the post, Kuffour's header went straight to Ricardo while Elber came close with a spectacular over-head kick on 78 minutes but Loja cleared off the line.

The deadlock was finally broken by Santa Cruz nine minutes from time. Lizarazu raced down the left and found the young Paraguayan unmarked in the six-yard box, to head home with clean efficiency to record three vital points.

**PANATHINAIKOS 2
SPARTA 1**

Panathinaikos cemented second place in group C thanks to two Michalis Konstantinou goals at home to Sparta Prague on Wednesday.

The hosts had to endure a late bout of nerves after Sparta struck through Martin Klein with one minute to go but the Czechs never looked like claiming the draw.

The hosts dominated from the outset and wasted two chances before Konstantinou broke the deadlock on the quarter hour.

The Cypriot striker muscled his way to the edge of the six yard box before firing a low cross-shot past Petr Cech.

Greece international Nikos Liberopoulos should have punished Sparta for their lack of ambition before the interval but glanced a point blank header wide of the post with the goal gaping.

Konstantinou struck again two minutes after the break with a pile-driving header after good work from Jan Michaelsen on the right.

Livewire midfielder Giorgos Karagounis was influential along



Sotirios Kyrgiakos (right) challenges a Sparta Prague opponent.

with Angelos Basinas but the hosts were content to retain possession and hold their 2-0 lead.

Despite some scrappy late defending Panathinaikos never looked like conceding a second goal and experienced Dane Rene Henriksen shepherded injury time efforts to block any Sparta attacks.

**DEPORTIVO 2
JUVENTUS 0**

Deportivo La Coruna overwhelmed Juventus to record an impressive 2-0 victory in a rain-soaked encounter that saw Edgar Davids sent off for the beleaguered Italians.

After the stalemate in Turin last week, Depor attacked from the start and never allowed the visitors time to settle.

Lionel Scaloni fired a warning shot in the opening minutes which Buffon did well to palm away as the Spaniards passing game allowed Juve little possession.

Pavel Nedved registered Juve's only two shots of note in a first half that was one-way traffic.

The introduction of Davids after the break sparked some life into the Turin-based side, but the hard-working Alessandro Del Piero and David Trezeguet rarely found the openings they required to pull the Italians level.

But their evening was to get worse. On 74 minutes Davids approached the referee to register his disagreement over a free kick and the Dutchman, who had been booked a minute earlier was shown his second yellow card.

From then on Juve were on a damage limitation exercise although there was little they could do to stop Depor substitute Djalminha from doubling the home side's lead with a neat downward header.

**PORTO 1
REAL MADRID 2**

Real Madrid became the first team to guarantee their place in the quarter-finals of the Champions' League with a 2-1 win over Porto at the Das Antas stadium on Wednesday.

Porto started brightly and pinned Real in their own half for the first five minutes but fell behind to a goal on the break with just eight minutes on the clock as Santiago Solari planted a powerful header past Vitor Baia.

Three minutes later Porto wasted an excellent chance to equalise when Nuno Capucho rounded the goalkeeper but lost his footing and could only cut the ball back across goal where it was cleared to safety.

It was a miss the home side would rue as on 21 minutes Fernando Hierro sent in a testing free-kick which Baia fumbled before Ivan Helguera slotted home. Porto got themselves back in the game just before the half-



Fernando Hierro lead Real to a 2-1 win over Porto and a place in the quarter finals.

hour mark. Deco found Helder Postiga on the right flank and his cross found Capucho who calmly eased the ball home for his 300th goal in a Porto shirt. Real tightened up in the second half, content to sit on their slender lead.

The closest Porto came to equalising was a long-range effort from Capucho in the 73rd minute but the visitors held firm to secure their passage to the last eight.

**ARSENAL 4
BAYER 1**

Arsenal moved a step closer to the quarter-finals of the Champions' League as two goals inside the first seven minutes sent them on their way to a convincing win over Bayer Leverkusen at Highbury on Wednesday.

Leverkusen came into the game on a high having routed Bundesliga rivals Borussia Dortmund at the weekend but they were caught cold as Robert Pires opened the scoring with just five minutes on the clock.

The France international picked up the ball on the halfway line and carried it towards the Leverkusen goal. With no challenge forthcoming he set his sights before sliding the ball past the stranded Hans-Jorg Butt. As they had in the first period, the Gunners started the second half brightly and Vieira all but assured the three points with a diving header at the far post from an Henry free-kick on 48 minutes.

However, it was the home side who looked more dangerous and they extended their lead with six minutes to go when Bergkamp turned before sending a delightful chip over Butt.

Zoltan Sebesen got a spectacular late goal for Leverkusen but the Germans were well beaten.



David Beckham's superb equaliser in Manchester United's victory over Nantes.

replaced by Damiano Tommasi that Roma really took control.

Totti broke quickly, slipped the ball through for Montella, who slipped by Philippe Christanval and buried the ball in the far corner to put the game beyond doubt on 74 minutes. Tommasi crashed home Cafu's cross in injury-time to complete the scoring.

**MANCHESTER UTD 5
NANTES 1**

David Beckham, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer (2), Mikael Silvestre and Ruud van Nistelrooy were on target as United recovered from going a goal down to cruise through this Champions' League clash.

Frederic Da Rocha had shocked Old Trafford with a tap-in from a left-wing cross on 17 minutes, when three home defenders let a low ball run across the area, but the Reds were soon in full flow.

They immediately won a free-kick just to the left of centre near the Nantes goal. Beckham stepped up and put United level with a curling shot into the top corner.

Solskjaer then gave United the

**GALATASARAY 1
LIVERPOOL 1**

Galatasaray and Liverpool shared the spoils on Tuesday evening in a match at Istanbul's Ali Sami Yen stadium that failed to live up to expectations as leaving both teams facing an uphill struggle to qualify.

Liverpool opened well but the first clear chance fell to Galatasaray on 11 minutes when Arif Erdem exchanged passes with Berkant Goktan before forcing Chris Kirkland into a diving save with a right foot shot from the edge of the box.

Liverpool hit back and within the space of two minutes keeper Farid Mondragon first picked the ball off Michael Owen's feet then dived to save from John-Arne Riise.

The match then developed into a midfield battle with neither side able to create much until Owen slipped two defenders on the edge of the box two minutes from the interval only to shoot narrowly wide.

Owen went close again at the

RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

It was a mixed bag of results for the Italian teams in last week's Champions League. The disappointing one was of course the 2-0 defeat by Deportivo La Coruna of Juventus.

After this column had sung the praises of Juventus last week, they fell down in a heap. In the Turin derby against Torino, they scored the equalising goal in the last minute to avoid an embarrassing defeat.

Then three days later they suffer yet another defeat in Spain. Juventus haven't won in Spain since 1971. Often when a team is praised it is the equivalent of the 'kiss' of death.

However, it was not all doom and gloom for the other Italian team Roma. In fact it was quite the opposite. Surely not even their staunchest, and most one-eyed, supporter could have imagined such a comprehensive victory over Barcelona.

It wasn't so much as a victory, but an annihilation. Rarely is Barcelona so outplayed. Sure they were at the Olympic Stadium in Rome, but the Catalans don't ever play so badly.

Roma are now leading their very tough group, which also comprises Liverpool and Galatasaray.

There is also a certain irony in that Roma victory. The rumours are constantly circulating that their outstanding coach, Fabio Capello, is set to join the Catalan club.

Roma and Capello are naturally in denial but that means nothing in football. Capello has already had experience in Spain.

In 1996/97 he coached Real Madrid to a Spanish League title in his one and only season there. This title, ironically, ended Barcelona's stranglehold on it. The Catalan giants had just won five consecutive league titles and Real were desperate to regain supremacy.

Capello was the man to deliver the goods to Real, just as he delivered at AC Milan previously and is now doing at Roma.

Five Italian league titles and one Spanish title, with three different clubs, is not a feat that is easily matched. Only Italian national boss Giovanni Trapattoni can boast a similar record, with Juventus, Inter and Bayern Munich.

As mentioned previously in this column in the past, Capello is the best club coach in European football currently. It is therefore little wonder that Barcelona want the Italian maestro.

It was interesting to read current Dutch and Barcelona striker, Patrick Kluivert, say that Capello's style would not suit Barcelona. Too defensive was his argument.

However, this may be a case of spite because when Kluivert played under Capello at AC Milan, he hardly ever got a run due to lack of form. In fact Kluivert failed in Italy and may be looking for a 'scapegoat', for such a failure.

As a player Capello was an outstanding midfielder for Juventus, Roma, AC Milan and Italy. He was a courageous and confident player. He is still the same now as a coach.

He is not one to worry about the reputation of the players or the criticism of the media. He selects his teams and that is it. His success rate certainly makes him hard to argue with.

Whatever the case with Kluivert, and whatever the truth about Capello's 'move', it can certainly be said that Barcelona would be making a very wise choice. He proved it against them at the Olympic Stadium last week.

◆◆◆◆◆
This weekend the big clash between Inter and Juventus takes place at the San Siro Stadium in Milan. Generally this game is referred to as the derby of Italy.

Both teams are in the title race and the outcome of this clash is vital. Neither can afford to drop points given that Roma are also in the three-way equation.

However, like most things in Italian football, controversy is never far away. Tomorrow night (March 6) was meant to be the final of the Italian Cup between Juventus and Parma. Sure the Italian Cup is not that important but when you reach the final stage, and there is a UEFA Cup spot up for grabs, the picture starts to change.

So if Juventus had have played Parma, they would have faced Inter three days later and perhaps be fairly jaded. The game has been postponed and this has upset Inter.

They are crying foul play and once again it seems that Italian Federation is favouring Juventus. Remember the supposedly 'favourable' refereeing, scandals of a few years back for Juventus?

Officially the reason is that the television broadcaster, the State owned Rai Uno, is committed to broadcasting the Sanremo song festival and hence a clash.

There is absolutely no doubt that television revenue is vital for any sport, but try convincing Inter of that one for now!

Vieri settles Milan derby to keep Inter on top

Christian Vieri grabbed the only goal as Internazionale FC beat Milan AC in the Milan derby on Sunday to hold onto their lead at the top of Serie A.

**AC Milan 0
Inter Milan 1**

Vieri pounced when Milan goalkeeper Christian Abbiati pushed out a Nicola Ventola shot and the Italian international striker knocked the ball over the line with his knee. Inter dominated after the break and Vieri had earlier missed a good chance, blasting over the bar after finding himself in space on the left of the penalty area.

**Juventus 1
Bologna 0**

Bologna FC defender Massimo Tarantino's own goal two minutes from time gave Juventus a 2-1 win on Sunday, while title-chasing rivals Roma were held to a 1-1 draw at lowly US Lecce.

missed for a second bookable offence.

**Lazio 4
Venezia 2**

Hernán Crespo scored a hat-trick for S.S. Lazio in their 4-2 win over bottom club AC Venezia.

The lightning-fast Argentinian striker headed home the opener, added a second from the penalty spot and then jinked through the Venezia defence for a stunning third to kill off the opposition.

**Verona 1
Fiorentina 2**

Goals from Domenic Morfeo and Adriano allowed AC Fiorentina to keep their fading dream of Serie A survival alive with a 2-1 win at Hellas-Verona FC.

The duo hit the net in either half to ensure Adrian Mutu's late goal did not alter the destination of the points, while Marco Zanchi's sending-off spoiled Verona's chances of a grandstand finish.



Gianluca Zambrotta (right) fights for the ball with Matleo Brighi.

them ahead at the break. But Cristiano Doni restored parity shortly after the restart and Pinardi struck at the death to secure a 2-1 victory that catapults Atalanta above their fellow strugglers.

**Brescia 2
Piacenza 2**

Brescia Calcio and Piacenza FC had to battle every inch of the way for a 2-2 draw at the Mario Rigamonti stadium.

After a tepid opening period, all the goals came in a ten-minute spell before the game boiled over in the closing stages with Brescia's Alessandro Calori and Vincenzo Sommese of Piacenza sent off. Andrea Caracciolo put the home side

This Week

SUNDAY 10 MARCH

Atalanta v Lecce
Bologna v AC Milan
Fiorentina v Udinese
Internazionale v Juventus
Lazio v Roma
Piacenza v Perugia
Torino v Chievo
Venezia v Brescia
Verona v Parma



Inter's Alvaro Recoba fights for the ball with Milan's Contra.

Juventus had fallen behind to a Lamberto Zauli goal in the 36th minute but drew level almost immediately when French striker David Trezeguet headed his seventh Serie A goal since Christmas past Gianluca Pagliuca from Pavel Nedved's cross.

After Zauli and Juventus' Cristian Zenoni had been dismissed following an off-the-ball clash, Tarantino headed a cross from Gianluca Pessotto into his own net to hand the home side a vital win.

**Lecce 1
Roma 1**

In Lecce, French wing-back Vincent Candela put Roma ahead in the 36th minute with a fine free-kick, but a second-half header from Croatian international Davor Vugrinec earned their relegation-threatened hosts a vital point.

Lecce finished the match with ten men, when Alberto Savino was dis-

**Perugia 2
Torino 0**

AC Perugia climbed from eleventh to eighth in the table after a 2-0 home victory over Torino Calcio.

A free-kick from Fabian O'Neill and Zisis Vryzas's first goal in seven games finished off a Torino side who started the day three places ahead of their hosts but ended it looking up at them.

**Udinese 1
Atalanta 2**

A last-minute winner from Alex Pinardi completed a rousing Atalanta BC comeback at the Friuli stadium as Udinese Calcio's woeful home form continued.

With just two wins on home soil all season, Udinese appeared ready to put that record behind them when Thomas Manfredini's cool finish put

**Milan 0 Inter 1, Brescia 2 Piacenza 2, Juventus 2
Bologna 1, Lazio 4 Venezia 2, Parma v Chievo (post-poned), Perugia 2 Torino 0, Udinese 1 Atalanta 2,
Lecce 1 Roma 1, Verona 1 Fiorentina 2**

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Internazionale	25	15	7	3	44	21	52
Juventus	25	14	9	2	47	19	51
Roma	25	13	11	1	35	15	50
Bologna	25	12	5	8	28	26	41
Chievo Verona	24	11	6	7	42	35	39
Milan	25	9	11	5	35	26	38
Lazio	25	9	9	7	34	22	36
Perugia	25	9	6	10	28	32	33
Torino	25	8	8	9	28	30	32
Hellas-Verona	25	9	5	11	33	39	32
Parma	24	8	6	10	32	35	30
Atalanta	25	8	6	11	29	39	30
Udinese	25	8	5	12	34	41	29
Piacenza	25	7	7	11	36	35	28
Brescia	25	5	11	9	28	40	26
Lecce	25	5	9	11	25	37	24
Fiorentina	25	5	5	15	27	49	20
Venezia	25	3	6	16	23	47	15



A wonder goal from Dennis Bergkamp opened the scoring at St James Park.

Newcastle 0 Arsenal 2

Arsenal secured a vital 2-0 win over Newcastle United at St James' Park to move into second spot in the Premiership, level on points with the leaders Manchester United.

Once again Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger was forced to field a weakened side with several first-teamers, including striker Thierry Henry, missing the match through injury.

Nevertheless it was the visitors who struck the early blow when Dennis Bergkamp produced a sublime piece of skill for the second time in three days after just ten minutes. The Dutchman turned nonchalantly inside Nikos Dabizas before coolly slotting the ball past Shay Given.

Newcastle had much of the possession, but struggled to create clear-cut chances, and any hope they had of coming back was effectively ended when Sol Campbell doubled Arsenal's lead by heading home a Bergkamp free kick on the stroke of half-time.

Fulham 0 Liverpool 2

Liverpool closed the gap on Manchester United to one point as goals from Nicolas Anelka and Jari Litmanen sealed a 2-0 win over Fulham at Craven Cottage.

Fulham started the game well, but Anelka soon got Liverpool's noses in front when he registered his third goal for the club in the 13th minute.

The French striker saw his first

shot blocked by Rufus Brevett, but kept his composure when the ball rebounded to him, advanced into the Fulham box and beat Edwin van der Sar with a left-foot curler into the bottom corner.

Fulham competed well after the break, but missed a series of chances to draw level. Liverpool eventually made them pay when Finland forward Litmanen doubled the lead in the last minute by rolling the ball into an empty net after a mistake from Van der Sar.

Bolton 1 Blackburn 1

Blackburn Rovers were dealt an early blow in their vital relegation scrap with Lancashire-rivals Bolton Wanderers at the Reebok stadium when their Worthington Cup final hero Andy Cole was sent off for reacting angrily to a challenge by Mike Whitlow in the 18th minute.

The home side made their numerical advantage tell as they took the lead on the stroke of half-time when Rod Wallace gained possession after some hesitant defending from Henning Berg and fired the ball past Brad Freidel.

Bolton missed several chances to extend their lead before Rovers got themselves back into the game with a superb equaliser from Matt Jansen in the 69th minute. Damien Duff created the space with a jinking run through the Bolton defence and Jansen fired an unstoppable shot past Jussi Jaaskelainen from an acute angle.

Blackburn took heart from the goal and finished strongly, but

Derby hold leaders, while Arsenal victory moves them to second

Jaaskelainen ensured that the match finished 1-1 with a superb reaction save at the death.

Charlton 2 Chelsea 1

Chelsea's hopes of qualifying for the Champions' League were dealt a blow as they lost 2-1 at Charlton Athletic. Jason Euell gave Charlton the lead in the 19th minute at The Valley after an excellent move.

Paul Konchesky's accurate cross was headed into the path of Euell by Matthias Svensson and the former Wimbledon midfielder chested the ball down and fired past Carlo Cudicini from the edge of the box.

Chelsea hit back through Frank Lampard, who was brilliantly picked out by Gianfranco Zola, but the home side has the final say as Euell coolly netted his second of the game in the dying minutes.

Aston Villa 2 West Ham 1

A last-minute strike from Darius Vassell helped Aston Villa secure a 2-1 win over West Ham United at Villa Park.

West Ham took the lead in the 12th minute at Villa Park when Paolo di Canio converted a penalty after Olof Mellberg brought down Jermain Defoe inside the area.

Villa, however, soon got on top and they deservedly drew level when top-scorer Juan Pablo Angel headed home a Gareth Barry cross in the 23rd minute. West Ham looked as though they would take a point in their battle against the drop before Vassell struck with virtually the last kick of the game.

Tottenham 2 Sunderland 1

Sunderland's miserable run continued as they lost 2-1 to Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane. Gustavo Poyet gave Tottenham the lead when he forced Christian Ziege's corner past Thomas Sorensen in the 31st minute, but the Black Cats hit back on the stroke of half-time when Patrick Mboma, on loan from Parma, scored his first goal in a Sunderland shirt.

The Cameroon striker latched onto a long ball from Bernd Haas and shook off the attentions of Ledley King before stroking the ball past Neil Sullivan. Spurs stole the points, though, in the 61st minute when some excellent approach play from Ziege laid on a simple chance for Les Ferdinand to score.

Leicester 0 Middlesbrough 1

An incredible own-goal from Frank Sinclair was enough to

give Middlesbrough a 1-0 win at home to bottom club Leicester City.

The former Chelsea defender was left with a red face when his attempted back pass flew past the helpless Ian Walker from 45-yards out in the just fourth minute.

Ipswich 1 Southampton 3

Southampton recorded an impressive 3-1 win over over relegation-rivals Ipswich Town at Portman Road. Rory Delap, Brett Ormerod and Chris Marsden were all on target for the visitors, while Finidi George grabbed a consolation for Ipswich.

Derby County 2 Manchester Utd 2

Malcolm Christie struck 13 minutes from time and had a controversial injury-time strike disallowed as struggling Derby County FC denied Manchester United FC in a 2-2 draw in the English FA Premiership on Sunday.

Christie gave the home side the lead after just eight minutes at Pride Park, before United hit back with goals from Paul Scholes and Juan Sebastián Verón. Sir Alex Ferguson's players, who had hit the woodwork three times, appeared to be cruising to victory before Christie pounced at the near post to turn home a cross from Luciano Zavagno.



Southampton's Rory Delap battles for the ball.

Everton 0 Leeds United 0

In Sunday's other top-flight game, ten-man Leeds United FC moved up to fifth place with a 0-0 draw at Everton FC. Leeds, eliminated from the UEFA Cup by PSV Eindhoven on Thursday, played with a man down for 51 minutes after the dismissal of defender Dominic Matteo. The Scottish international was sent off for a second bookable offence following a challenge on striker Kevin Campbell.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Derby 2 Man. United 2, Everton 0 Leeds 0, Newcastle 0 Arsenal 2, Tottenham 2 Sunderland 1, Aston Villa 2 West Ham 1 Bolton 1 Blackburn 1, Charlton 2 Chelsea 1, Fulham 0 Liverpool 2, Ipswich 1 Southampton 3, Middlesbrough 1 Leicester 0.

	Pld	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1 Man Utd	29	18	4	7	32	58
2 Arsenal	28	16	9	3	26	57
3 Liverpool	29	16	8	5	22	56
4 Newcastle United	28	17	4	7	17	55
5 Leeds United	28	11	12	5	8	45
6 Chelsea	27	11	11	5	19	44
7 Aston Villa	28	10	11	7	3	41
8 Tottenham Hotspur	27	11	5	11	3	38
9 Charlton Athletic	28	9	10	9	-1	37
10 Fulham	28	8	11	9	-4	35
11 Southampton	28	10	4	14	-8	34
12 Middlesbrough	28	9	7	12	-8	34
13 West Ham Utd	28	9	7	12	-13	34
14 Sunderland	28	8	7	13	-11	31
15 Everton	28	7	9	12	-7	30
16 Ipswich Town	27	8	6	13	-8	30
17 Bolton Wanderers	28	6	12	10	-12	30
18 Blackburn Rovers	27	6	8	13	-4	26
19 Derby County	28	7	5	16	-22	26
20 Leicester City	28	3	8	17	-32	17

FIRST DIVISION

	Pld	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1 W'hampton Wanderers	37	23	7	7	35	76
2 Man City	35	22	5	8	38	71
3 West Bromwich Albion	37	20	6	11	19	66
4 Millwall	36	17	10	9	19	61
5 Burnley	36	17	10	9	9	61
6 Coventry City	37	18	5	14	15	59
7 Crystal Palace	37	18	3	16	10	57
8 Norwich	36	17	6	13	4	57
9 Birmingham City	35	16	8	11	11	56
10 Preston	36	15	11	10	7	56
11 Sheff Utd	36	12	13	11	0	49
12 Watford	37	13	9	15	7	48
13 Wimbledon	35	12	12	11	5	48
14 Nottm Forest	37	11	15	11	5	48
15 Gillingham	36	13	8	15	-4	47
16 Bradford City	35	13	6	16	-3	45
17 Portsmouth	36	12	9	15	-9	45
18 Rotherham Utd	37	10	13	14	-10	43
19 Sheff Wed	37	10	10	17	-19	40
20 Barnsley	37	8	14	15	-20	38
21 Crewe Alexandra	33	10	8	15	-21	38
22 Grimsby Town	37	9	11	17	-22	38
23 Walsall	37	8	9	20	-23	33
24 Stockport	36	2	8	26	-53	14

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1 Reading	37	22	7	8	25	73
2 Brighton	36	18	12	6	11	66
3 Stoke City	37	18	10	9	23	64
4 Brentford	36	18	8	10	24	62
5 Bristol City	36	18	8	10	18	62
6 Oldham Athletic	37	16	12	9	18	60
7 Huddersfield Town	35	16	11	8	14	59
8 Cardiff City	36	16	11	9	12	59
9 QPR	37	15	11	11	10	56
10 Tranmere Rovers	35	14	11	10	10	53
11 Wycombe Wanderers	36	14	11	11	2	53
12 Port Vale	37	15	7	15	-3	52
13 Swindon Town	37	13	11	13	-5	50
14 Wigan Athletic	37	11	14	12	8	47
15 Colchester United	37	12	10	15	-8	46
16 Blackpool	36	11	12	13	-8	45
17 Chesterfield	35	11	10	14	-3	43
18 Peterborough United	36	11	9	16	1	42
19 Bury	37	10	9	18	-23	39
20 Northampton Town	36	10	5	21	-22	35
21 Bournemouth	36	8	10	18	-15	34
22 Wrexham	37	8	9	20	-30	33
23 Notts County	37	7	10	20	-21	31
24 Cambridge Utd	36	5	10	21	-38	25

THIS WEEK IN PREMIERSHIP

Tue Mar 5 2002

Arsenal v Derby County
Sunderland v Bolton Wanderers
Blackburn Rovers v Aston Villa

Wed Mar 6 2002

Leeds United v Ipswich Town
Chelsea v Fulham
Southampton v Middlesbrough
West Ham Utd v Everton
Liverpool v Newcastle United
Man Utd v Tottenham Hotspur

Sat Mar 09 2002

Leicester City v Charlton Athletic

Spanish Primera Liga



Deportivo's Joan Capdevilla wins the header from Seville's Francisco Gallardo.

Valencia reclaimed the Spanish league leadership, after relinquishing it for a little under 24 hours to Real Madrid, with a 1-0 win at Real Zaragoza on Sunday.

Francisco Rufete's header after 25 minutes was enough to give

Valencia three points from a dire game and return them to the top of the table.

Valencia have 50 points from 28 games while defending champions Real Madrid drift back to second, despite winning 1-0 at Celta Vigo on Saturday, one point in arrears.

In a duel marked by tight defending, both Valencia and Zaragoza had few clear-cut opportunities to score.

Zaragoza's best chances fell in the first half to Martin Vellica and Goran Drulic, while Kily Gonzalez twice went close for Valencia.

However, it was left to Rufete to nod home a Salva Ballesta cross for Valencia to notch up a typical victory, by the narrowest of margins.

Inevitably, Valencia coach Rafa Benitez found himself under fire for his tactics, but he defended his position as well as his team had done earlier on Sunday.

"We knew what we had to do, and did it. We were not obsessed with getting the first goal and I was

Valencia reclaim lead with narrow win over Zaragoza

worried about a Zaragoza counter-attack if we went forward and left ourselves exposed.

"I think my tactics justify themselves because we have three more points," said the laconic coach.

By contrast, Barcelona enjoyed themselves at Malaga's expense, with a 5-1 victory over the Costa Del Sol club.

The cornerstone of Malaga's worst defeat in more than two years was a hat-trick by Patrick Kluivert.

"It was an easy victory and we could have had more goals. After the first goal, everyone relaxed, but it was important to win this game because this season we have thrown away games against theoretically 'weak' teams like Rayo and Osasuna," said Barcelona coach Charly Rexach.

Philip Cocu opened the scoring after just four minutes, by heading home a Kluivert corner, and then Javier Saviola got Barcelona's second after 25 minutes.

Kluivert then scored twice from the spot after 36 and 76 minutes, both penalties coming in similar fashion after a frustrated Vicente Valcarlos had hacked down Saviola.

The Catalan's Dutch international striker then ended his day with his third goal a minute from the whistle, getting on the end of a Rivaldo cross and finishing it off from close range.

Kluivert now has 15 goals to his name, the second highest tally in the Spanish first division, and just one less than Real Madrid's Fernando Morientes.

Barcelona move up to fourth place with 46 points, one point behind Deportivo La Coruna, who won 1-0 at Sevilla on Saturday to go third.

Real Mallorca won the relegation battle at fellow strugglers Rayo Vallecano, triumphing 2-0 through goals from Cameroon international striker Samuel Eto'o and Veljko Paunovic.

The victory meant Mallorca climbed out of the three-team relegation zone, on goal difference.

Real Sociedad also edged closer to escaping the drop after drawing 1-1 at Osasuna to move up to 16th place.

Las Palmas, who have now not won in their last eight games, descended to 18th after losing 3-1 at Athletic Bilbao.

Athletic's first goal from Francisco Yeste, after 40 minutes, was a 30-yard thunderbolt and possibly the best goal of the weekend in the Spanish first division.

Bottom club Tenerife drew 1-1 with Espanyol but the point was not enough to lever the Canary islanders out of last place.

Tenerife's Argentine striker Bichi Fuentes got the quickest goal of the day after three minutes, but Espanyol's Raul Tamudo equalised 16 minutes later with his 12th goal of the season, consolidating his late bid for inclusion in Spain's World Cup squad.

Alaves, league leaders before Christmas, ended their run of four consecutive losses with a convincing 3-1 win over Valladolid.

The Basques got an early shock when Valladolid's Fernando Fernandez blasted the ball under the body of Alaves goalkeeper Kike Burgos to put the visitors ahead after nine minutes.

However, Alaves' striker Magno Mocellin equalised after 39 minutes and two second half goals from Delfi Geli gave Alaves a well-deserved, and increasingly rare, win.

On Saturday Raúl González struck seven minutes from time to earn Real Madrid CF a 1-0 win against RC Celta de Vigo on Saturday and take Vicente del Bosque's side back to the top of the Primera División table.

The Spanish international striker



Second half substitute Raul scored to put Real 2-1 up against Alaves.

scored for the second week running with a finely judged header from Zinedine Zidane's cross to put a gloss on what had been a hard-fought encounter in the Bala'dos stadium. The result gives the reigning champions and title favourites 49 points from 28 games, two clear of Valencia CF, who are away to Real Zaragoza on Sunday.

Sevilla FC's hopes of European qualification took a knock when they were beaten 1-0 at home by RC Deportivo La Coruña. Dutch international Roy Makaay scored seven minutes into the second half at the Sánchez Pizjuán stadium to keep his team in the title race. They are currently in third place and just two points behind Madrid, while Sevilla remain tenth.

Real Betis Balompié are just a point behind Deportivo after a 1-1 draw at Villarreal CF's Madrigal stadium. Former Spanish international Guillermo Amor netted after 20 minutes for the home side, but Dani restored parity eight minutes before the break. Villarreal now have a five-point safety cushion over Rayo Vallecano in the highest relegation place.

WORLD LEAGUES

Groningen 1 RKC 1, Sparta 0 Fortuna 0, Twente 2 NEC 0, Ajax 1 Feyenoord 1, Willem II 4 Utrecht 2, De Graafschap 0 Den Bosch 1, NAC 3 AZ 1, Roda v Vitesse.



Feyenoord's Jon Dael Tomasson duels with John O'Brien of Ajax.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pnt
1. Ajax	25	15	6	4	52-27	51
2. Feyenoord	24	14	4	6	50-21	46
3. PSV	24	14	4	6	53-26	46
4. Heerenveen	23	12	6	5	41-16	42
5. NAC	25	12	5	8	43-39	41
6. Vitesse	24	10	9	5	27-25	39
7. RKC	25	10	5	10	34-29	35
8. Utrecht	25	9	7	9	45-42	34
9. Twente	25	7	10	8	33-32	31
10. Willem II	25	7	10	8	39-43	31
11. Den Bosch	25	7	9	9	33-38	30
12. AZ	25	8	5	12	29-33	29
13. NEC	24	8	5	11	21-40	29
14. Graafschap	23	8	4	11	32-36	28
15. Roda	24	8	4	12	24-35	28
16. Groningen	25	7	5	13	31-48	26
17. Sparta	25	4	11	10	24-49	23
18. Fortuna	24	2	7	15	21-52	13

Aalst 0 Genk 0, Brugge 3 Lierse 1, Gent 2 Anderlecht 2, Lommel 3

BELGIAN EERSTEKLASSE

La Louviere 0, Germinal 2 Mouscron 2, Sint-Truiden 2 Westerlo 0, RWDM 1 Lokeren 0, Standart 4 Beveren 1, Charleroi 5 Antwerp 0.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pnt
1. Brugge	25	18	1	6	60-30	55
2. Genk	24	14	9	1	65-32	51
3. Anderlecht	24	14	7	3	56-27	49
4. Standart	24	13	6	5	47-29	45
5. Gent	25	12	8	5	44-36	44
6. Lokeren	25	12	7	6	35-24	43
7. Mouscron	25	12	4	9	52-32	40
8. Germinal	24	8	10	6	46-35	34
9. Sint-Truiden	25	10	4	11	35-36	34
10. Charleroi	25	9	5	11	29-44	32
11. Lommel	25	8	7	10	41-43	31
12. Westerlo	25	8	5	12	42-47	29
13. RWDM	25	8	4	13	32-45	28
14. La Louviere	25	5	8	12	28-48	23
15. Lierse	25	5	7	13	37-49	22
16. Antwerp	25	5	7	13	35-52	22
17. Aalst	25	4	5	16	19-54	17
18. Beveren	25	2	8	15	26-66	14

Lille 1 Troyes 0, Lens 2 Metz 2, Sedan 0 Auxerre 0.

FRENCH CHAMPIONAT



Len's Valcrun Ismael (r) challenges Metz' Emmanuel Adebayor.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pnt
1. Lens	27	16	8	3	45-20	56
2. Olympique	27	15	5	7	54-29	50
3. Auxerre	25	13	9	3	34-22	48
4. St Germain	27	11	12	4	35-20	45
5. Lille	27	12	9	6	32-24	45
6. Bordeaux	26	11	8	7	27-21	41
7. Troyes	27	10	6	11	32-31	36
8. Monaco	27	9	8	10	30-30	35
9. Sochaux	27	9	8	10	34-36	35
10. Olympique	27	8	9	10	25-31	33
11. Montpellier	27	7	11	9	23-24	32
12. Bastia	27	9	4	14	29-37	31
13. Nantes	27	8	5	14	25-34	29
14. Rennais	27	7	8	12	28-40	29
15. Sedan	25	6	10	9	26-29	28
16. Lorient	27	7	6	14	36-52	27
17. Guingamp	27	6	8	13	25-45	26
18. Metz	26	7	4	15	19-34	25



SCOTTISH LEAGUE

Celtic scrape through, while Rangers penalty sinks United

Celtic struggled without a clutch of key players but Alan Thompson's first-half penalty was enough to give the runaway leaders a 1-0 win over fierce rivals Aberdeen on Saturday.

Victory for the injury-hit Glasgow giants means they are just four wins away from retaining their Scottish Premier League title.

The game was marred late on when match winner Thompson and Aberdeen substitute Hicham Zerouali were sent off after an off-the-ball clash.

Celtic manager Martin O'Neill found himself down to the bare bones with John Hartson suspended, Henrik Larsson, Chris Sutton, Bobo Balde, Joos Valgaeren injured and Olivier Tebily absent. The Irishman, who celebrated his 50th birthday on Friday, drafted in veteran skipper Tom Boyd while young duo Stephen Crainey and Shaun Maloney also came into a new-look side.

But it was Thompson who showed the composure needed to move his side a massive 16 points clear of nearest challengers Rangers, who play at Dundee United on Sunday. The all-important goal arrived in first-half injury-time. Eugene Dadi was judged to have held Stephen Crainey down in the box and Thompson fired low into the bottom corner from the spot.

A late goal by youngster Robert Sloan gave Hearts a 2-1 win over an unlucky Motherwell to consolidate the Edinburgh side's top-six position. Scott Severin had given



Ian Murray (No. 6) opens the scoring for Hibs.

the visitors a first-half lead and the impressive Edinburgh side looked in a commanding position at the interval.

But after the break, the Fir Park men battled back and grabbed a deserved equaliser through Keith Lasley.

However, with the game evenly poised, up popped Sloan in the 82nd minute to send a lovely shot past Stephen Woods to snatch all three points.

Two stunning second-half goals from substitute Andy McLaren gave Kilmarnock a 3-2 victory over Dundee and handed new manager Jim Jefferies his first taste of victory as Rugby Park boss supreme.

Bobby Williamson celebrated his first game as Hibernian manager with a 3-0 home win over bottom club St Johnstone, a victory which virtually secured the Edinburgh side's top-flight survival for another season.

An instantly forgettable encounter at East End Park saw Dunfermline take three points off third-placed Livingston with a 1-0 win.

On Sunday second-half penalty from Italian defender Lorenzo Amoroso gave Rangers a narrow 1-0 win at Dundee United on Sunday and closed the gap on Scottish Premier League leaders Celtic to 13 points.

Referee Willie Young awarded the spot-kick in the 68th minute when Russell Latapy was tripped by Craig Easton in the penalty box and Amoroso made no mistake from 12 yards.

Dundee United 0 Rangers 1, Celtic 1 Aberdeen 0, Dunfermline 1 Livingston 0, Hibernian 3 St Johnstone 0, Kilmarnock 3 Dundee 2, Motherwell 1 Hearts 2.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Celtic	30	27	2	1	72-14	83
2. Rangers	30	21	7	2	67-22	70
3. Livingston	29	13	8	8	39-29	47
4. Aberdeen	30	13	5	12	42-41	44
5. Kilmarnock	30	11	8	11	36-38	41
6. Hearts	30	11	6	13	40-40	39
7. Dunfermline	30	10	7	13	35-51	37
8. Dundee United	30	8	8	14	29-52	32
9. Dundee	29	8	7	14	29-45	31
10. Motherwell	30	8	6	16	40-55	30
11. Hibernian	30	6	10	14	37-48	28
12. St Johnstone	30	4	4	22	20-51	16

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Bayern moving up, while Schakle's title hopes suffer major blow at Cottbus

FC Bayern München made up ground on the Bundesliga leaders with a win on Saturday after Bayer 04 Leverkusen could only draw at Freiburg.

Bayern won their third game in a row at VfB Stuttgart to put their mid-season blues behind them and continue their challenge to defend their German title. Roque Santa Cruz scored his second goal of the week after finding Bayern's winner in the UEFA Champions League game with Boavista FC on Tuesday, to give the visitors a 32nd-minute lead, and Mehmet Scholl scored again for the champions six minutes later to complete a convincing win.

The 2-0 win has enabled Bayern to gain two points on top-of-the-table Leverkusen who secured a 2-2 draw away at SC Freiburg. After losing 4-1 to Arsenal FC in the Champions League on Wednesday, it was very nearly two defeats in a row for Klaus Topmüller's side as goals from Adel Sellimi and Vladimir But gave the hosts a 2-0, 52nd-minute lead, but Zé Roberto and Michael Ballack struck to level the scores by full time.

There was even worse news for FC Schalke 04 whose title hopes took a major knock as they were beaten 2-0 away at FC Energie Cottbus. Playmaker Vasil Miriuta gave the home side a 1-0 lead in the first-half at the Freundschaft stadium and Radoslaw Kaluzny added a second at the death to leave last season's runners-up five points adrift of Leverkusen.

Elsewhere VfL Borussia Mönchengladbach earned a 1-0 win in a close fought game with SV Werder Bremen. Peter van Houdt scored the only goal of the game after 36 minutes, heading home a Lawrence Aidoo cross, but Bremen had two shots cleared off the line in the second half. Jorg Stiel saved from Marco Bode but the rebound fell to half-time substitute Ailton, whose shot was blocked by Stefan Korell. Ivan Klasnic collected the clearance but his attempt was knocked away by Peter Nielsen.

In Saturday's other games, there was more misery for FC Nürnberg as they lost 3-1 against Hamburger SV at the AOL Arena. Struggling FC Köln earned a 1-1 draw at home against Hertha BSC Berlin, while TSV 1860 München won 2-0 against FC Hansa Rostock at the Olympiastadion.

Borussia Dortmund drew 1-1 with lowly St Pauli and Kaiserslautern edged a five goal thriller at home to Wolfsburg on Sunday. Dortmund's faltering title campaign took a fresh blow and they needed a late penalty to draw level with St Pauli and escape with a point.

Marcio Amoroso converting a spot kick after 82 minutes to save Borussia blushes after the second bottom side took a 32nd minute lead through Nico Patschinski.

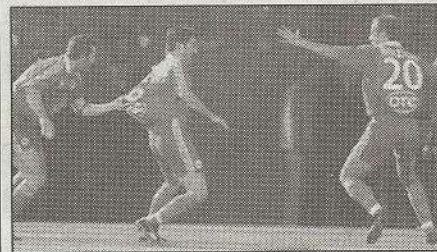


Mehmet Scholl scores with a free kick against Stuttgart.

Kaiserslautern 3 Wolfsburg 2, Borussia (D) 1 St Pauli 1, Stuttgart 0 Bayern 2, Cologne 1 Hertha 1, Hamburger 3 Nurnberg 1, Borussia (M) 1 Werder 0, Freiburg 2 Bayer 2, Energie 2 Schalke 04 0, 1860 Munchen 2 Hansa 0.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Bayer	25	15	5	5	59-31	50
2. Borussia (D)	25	14	7	4	39-21	49
3. Kaiserslautern	25	15	3	7	49-36	48
4. Bayern	25	14	5	6	49-19	47
5. Schalke 04	25	13	6	6	39-25	45
6. Hertha	25	12	7	6	42-29	43
7. Werder	25	12	4	9	35-28	40
8. 1860 Munchen	25	12	3	10	39-39	39
9. Stuttgart	25	9	8	8	30-28	35
10. Hamburger	25	9	6	10	38-38	33
11. Wolfsburg	25	8	6	11	40-39	30
12. Borussia (M)	25	6	9	10	27-37	27
13. Hansa	25	7	5	13	23-35	26
14. Energie	25	7	5	13	24-44	26
15. Nurnberg	25	7	4	14	25-43	25
16. Freiburg	25	5	9	11	27-42	24
17. St Pauli	25	3	9	13	27-47	18
18. Cologne	25	3	7	15	12-43	16

GREEK FIRST DIVISION



Panathinaikos players embrace after Giorgos Karagounis goal that gave PAO a 2-0 win against rivals AEK Athens.

AEK lose at PAO while Olympiakos take top spot

AEK slipped to second place in the table on Sunday as goals from Angelos Basinas and Giorgos Karagounis fired Panathinaikos to a 2-0 victory in the Athens derby.

The Greens got off to the perfect start when they won a penalty in the 12th minute which was successfully converted by Angelos Basinas. Five minutes later, a powerful Giorgos Karagounis shot doubled the hosts' lead. Panathinaikos played impressively and dominated long periods of the game. Indeed, AEK only really threatened the home goal in the closing stages when two powerful shots from Vasilis Tarts crashed back off the woodwork. The win takes Panathinaikos to third in the table, level on points with AEK, who have a superior goal difference.

Olympiakos were the real winners, however, as they regained their familiar top spot by beating Aegaleo 3-0 at home. The visitors defended well during the early stages but fell to pieces following Alekos Alexandris' goal in the 24th minute. Two second-half goals by Stelios Yiannakopoulos sealed the win in what was largely a one-sided match.

The key to victory for the hosts was their complete domination in the midfield, where Brazilian Giovanni and Predrag Djordjevic produced their most impressive performances of the campaign to date.

On Saturday, PAOK kept their title hopes alive with a comfortable 2-0 victory over lowly Ionikos. A Giorgos Georgiadis penalty gave the Salonica club the lead in the 30th minute after a foul on Giasemis Giasemakis, while Pantelis Kafes netted a second on the hour mark.

The performance was not one of championship quality, but PAOK boss Dusan Bajevic was quick to excuse his players. "We have collected all three points and remain on target," he said. "I am not pleased with our performance but we have had a heavy schedule lately so it is understandable. I will give the players the chance to get some rest this week."

Xanthi added to their already impressive season with a well-earned 1-1 draw at Iraklis. The hosts scored in the third minute through Ederson Fofonka, but Xanthi recovered quickly and equalised 16 minutes later through Stavros Labriakos.

Panionios continued their recent form by thrashing Akrotiros 4-1. The impressive away win came courtesy of double strikes from Kareem Motzaoui and Ermin Siljak. Akrotiros, who only managed to pull back a consolation through Petar Svetanov, are now perilously close to the relegation zone. A last-minute goal by Kostas Katsouranis earned a valuable point for bottom-placed Panahaiki at OFI. The hosts looked set for a key win in their bid for a Uefa Cup spot after two goals from their Costa Rican star Roland Gomez had given them a 2-1 lead after Frank Istiol's early striker for Panahaiki. Finally, Ethnikos Asteras and Aris shared the spoils after an exciting 2-2 draw. Ethnikos took the lead in the tenth minute through Papandreou, only for Dimitris Markos to level matters on the stroke of half-time.

Akrotiros 1 Panionios 4, OFI Crete 2 Panahaiki Patras 2, Olympiakos 3 Aigaleo 0, Iraklis 1 Xanthi 1, Ethnikos Astir 2 Aris Salonika 2, Panathinaikos 2 AEK Athens 0, PAOK Salonika 2 Ionikos 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympiakos	18	11	5	2	43	21	38
AEK Athens	18	12	1	5	40	20	37
Panathinaikos	18	11	4	3	34	15	37
PAOK	18	10	5	3	36	25	35
Xanthi	18	9	6	3	28	16	33
OFI Crete	18	7	5	6	22	20	26
Iraklis	18	6	7	5	22	23	25
Aris	18	6	6	6	19	19	24
Panionios	18	6	6	6	25	26	24
Aigaleo	18	4	3	11	19	36	15
Ionikos	18	3	5	10	12	33	14
Ethnikos Astir	18	3	5	10	15	25	14
Akrotiros	18	3	3	12	16	28	12
Panahaiki	18	1	7	10	17	40	10

WORLD LEAGUES

CROATIAN FIRST DIVISION

Dinamo 4, Pomorac 0, Hrvatski Dragovoljac 1, Zadar 0 Cakovec 2, Sibenik 0 Slaven Belupo 1, TSK 0 Kamen Ingrad 1, Cibalia 1 Hajduk Split 0, Marsonia 0 Osijek 1, Zagreb 6 Rijeka vs Varteks.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Zagreb	20	16	3	1	56	16	51
2. Varteks	19	12	4	3	40	19	40
3. Hajduk Split	20	12	4	4	38	22	40
4. Dinamo Zagreb	20	12	4	4	34	19	40
5. Rijeka	19	9	3	7	27	23	30
6. Slaven Belupo	20	7	8	5	23	21	29
7. Hrvatski	20	8	5	7	27	26	29
8. Cakovec	20	8	4	8	24	26	27
9. Pomorac	20	7	3	10	23	29	24
10. Marsonia	20	6	4	10	21	26	22
11. Osijek	20	6	2	12	25	36	20
13. Cibalia	20	5	4	11	20	29	19
12. Zadar	20	4	7	9	21	33	19
14. Kamen Ingrad	20	4	7	9	16	28	19
15. Sibenik	20	4	6	10	12	27	18
16. TSK	20	4	2	14	26	52	14

AUSTRIAN FIRST DIVISION

Rapid Vienna 1 SV Salzburg 0, Admira/Wacker Modling 0 FC Karnten 0, SV Ried 1 Sturm Graz 1, FC Tyrol Innsbruck 4 SW Bregenz 1, GAK 1 Austria Vienna 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Tirol Innsbruck	22	17	3	2	45	5	54
2. Graz AK	23	11	7	5	48	31	40
3. Sturm Graz	23	10	9	4	39	24	39
4. Salzburg	23	9	6	8	25	25	33
5. Karnten	22	9	6	7	25	28	33
6. Austria Vienna	22	6	8	8	27	26	26
7. Bregenz	23	6	7	10	29	49	25
8. Rapid Vienna	22	6	5	11	19	29	23
9. Ried	23	5	7	11	28	39	22
10. Admira Wacker	23	3	4	16	16	45	13

PORTUGUESE FIRST DIVISION

Varzim 2 Gil Vicente 0, Vitoria Setubal 2 Alverca 1, Maritimo Funchal 1 Farense 0, Pacos Ferreira 2 Santa Clara 1, Boavista 0 Vitoria Guimaraes 0, Salgueiros 0 FC Porto 3, Benfica 0 Uniao Leiria 2, Sporting Lisbon 2 Sporting Braga 2, Beira-Mar Aveiro v Belenenses.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Sporting	25	16	6	3	54	20	54
2. Boavista	25	16	5	4	40	14	53
3. Porto	25	15	3	7	46	25	48
4. Benfica	25	12	9	4	45	30	45
5. Uniao Leiria	25	11	7	7	39	27	40
6. Maritimo	25	12	3	10	33	26	39
7. Vitoria Guimaraes	25	10	7	8	27	22	37
8. Belenenses	24	10	5	9	33	35	35
9. Santa Clara	25	9	7	9	25	29	34
10. Braga	25	8	9	8	30	23	33
11. Pacos Ferreira	25	8	9	8	30	34	33
12. Beira Mar	24	7	7	10	38	41	28
13. Gil Vicente	25	7	6	12	26	40	27
14. Vitoria Setubal	25	6	7	12	27	32	25
15. Salgueiros	25	6	6	13	21	49	24
16. Varzim	25	6	5	14	21	45	23
17. Farense	25	5	5	15	19	39	20
18. Alverca	25	5	4	16	27	50	19

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

After Round 21	TOTAL							PTS	HOME							AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	Bye	F	A		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A		
PERTH GLORY	19	14	4	1	2	42	16	46	10	8	2	0	21	6	9	6	2	1	21	10		
NEWCASTLE UNITED	20	8	10	2	1	25	17	34	10	5	5	0	12	5	10	3	5	2	13	12		
OLYMPIC SHARKS	19	10	3	6	2	28	15	33	9	5	3	1	13	4	10	5	0	5	15	9		
BRISBANE STRIKERS	19	9	6	4	2	35	25	33	10	5	2	3	19	13	9	4	6	1	16	12		
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	20	9	2	9	1	33	32	29	10	4	2	4	13	15	10	5	0	5	20	17		
NORTHERN SPIRIT	20	7	5	8	1	26	33	26	10	4	2	4	12	16	10	3	3	4	14	17		
PARRAMATTA POWER	20	7	4	9	1	20	25	25	10	5	1	4	12	10	10	2	3	5	8	15		
SOUTH MELBOURNE	19	6	6	7	2	17	19	24	11	4	2	5	11	13	8	2	4	2	6	5		
MARCONI STALLIONS	19	6	5	8	2	23	25	23	10	4	3	3	16	14	9	2	2	5	7	11		
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	20	5	7	8	1	20	29	22	8	2	1	6	7	14	11	3	4	4	12	15		
SYDNEY UNITED	19	5	4	10	2	22	30	19	10	1	3	6	11	20	9	5	1	3	11	10		
ADELAIDE CITY	19	3	7	9	2	22	30	16	9	3	4	2	16	13	10	0	3	7	6	17		
KINGZ FC	19	3	5	11	1	23	40	14	10	3	3	4	11	20	9	0	2	7	12	22		

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 1
(D Wells 80)
OLYMPIC SHARKS 2
(A Packer 17, S Laybutt 33)

Venue: WIN Stadium. Crowd: 3,556. Referee: Mark Shield.
Cautions: D Cervinski (WW) 27, D Mennillo (WW) 87, J North (OS) 60, T Halpin (OS) 78, E Augerinos (OS) 82, F Agius (OS) 92.

Teams: **WOLLONGONG WOLVES:** Anastasidas, Ceccoli, Stanton, Cervinski, Castro (Sharland 57), Young, Sekulovski (Babic 71), Anthopoulos, Blake (Huxley 14), Mennillo, Wells.
OLYMPIC SHARKS: Bolton, Laybutt, Pondeljak, Macallister, Halpin, North, Harris (Agius 71), Packer, Durante (Srhoj 85), Ishida (Augerinos 74), Juric.

FOOTBALL KINGZ 1
(Ngata 83)
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 2
(X Sulemani 63, 68)

Venue: Ericsson Stadium. Crowd: 2,342. Referee: Derek Rugg.
Cautions: A Da Costa (MK) 46, I Jolic (MK) 63.

Teams: **AUCKLAND KINGZ:** Theoklitos, Perry, Goutzioulis, Urlovic, Vlahos (Campbell 75), Ngata (Osman 87), Markovski, Hooker, Banks, Jackson, Douglas.
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS: John, Rajher, Vargas, Ognerovski, Horvat, Marth, Porter, Da Costa, Jolic (Kiratzoglou 81), Pelikan, De Jesus Sulemani 59).

NEWCASTLE UNITED 0
SOUTH MELBOURNE 0

Venue: Energy Australia Stadium. Crowd: 8,958. Referee: S. Micallef.

Teams: **NEWCASTLE UNITED:** Beltrame, Prentice (Wilson 73), Zoricich, Bingley, McBreen (Moriera 69), Tsekenis, Baillie, Blagojevic, Schirripa (Dodd), Masi, Middleby.
SOUTH MELBOURNE: Petkovic, Iosifidis, De Amicis, Durakovic, Panopoulos, Covney, Trimboli (Buljan 75), Sekulovski, Murdochca, Kisnorbo, Boutsianis.

BRISBANE STRIKERS 3
(K Rees own goal 13, P Foster 38 pen, Baird 81)
ADELAIDE CITY FORCE 0

Venue: Ballymore. Crowd: 2,532. Referee: Angelo Nardi.
Cautions: L Drake (BS) 27, J McKain (BS) 86, R Sareceno (AC) 53.

Teams: **BRISBANE STRIKERS:** Kearnton, Alagich, Stefanutto, McKain, Grieson, Rech, Webber, Foster (Baird 78), Carbone (McQuiliter 84), McKay, Drake (Trajanovski 54)
ADELAIDE CITY: Godley, Kemp, Fyfe, Kovacevic, Pantelis, Veart, Sareceno, Vidmar, Rees, Goulding (karlovic 65), Saric.

MARCONI STALLIONS 3
(R Brownlie 40, 55, 57)
PARRAMATTA POWER 0

Venue: Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 2,756. Referee: M. Breeze.
Cautions: A Costanzo (MS) 24, A Tobin (PP) 43, A Elrich (PP) 55.
Red Cards: L Reddy (PP) 80.

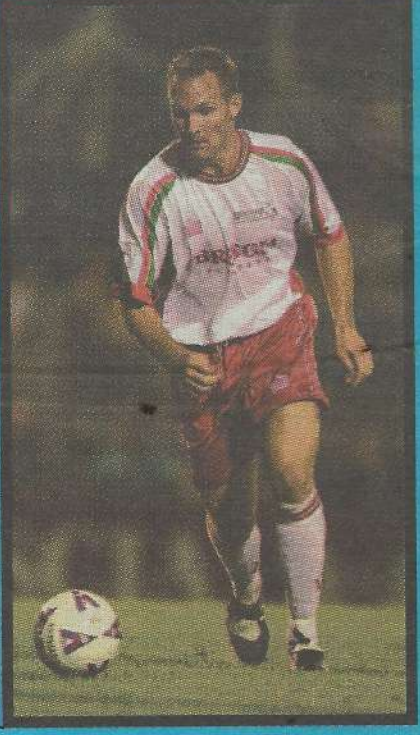
Teams: **MARCONI STALLIONS:** Turnbull, Costanzo, Longo, Last (Rudulovic 62), Maisano (Beauchamp 76), Bozinovski, Webb, Brownlie, Trajceviski, Brosque (Tome 72), Gibson.
PARRAMATTA POWER: Reddy, Barrett, Langdon, Orlic, Tobin (Bennett 72), O'Sullivan, Lapsansky, Brown (Arambasic 62), Holman (Fitzsimmons 72), Buonavolgia, Elrich.

PERTH GLORY 3
(D Mori 1, 64, B Despotovski 68 pen)
NORTHERN SPIRIT 0

Venue: Perth Oval. Crowd: 11,229. Referee: Eddie Lennie.
Cautions: C Deans (PG) 32, A Cervinski (NS) 27, R Enes (NS) 47, M Stergiopoulos (NS) 67.
Red Cards: R Enes (NS) 74.

Teams: **PERTH GLORY:** Petkovic, Horsley (Mrdja 77), Harnwell (Tarka 72), Deans, Miller, Maloney, Despotovski, Hassell, Junior (Edwards 81), Mori, Pryce.
NORTHERN SPIRIT: Acevski, Watts (Sobczyk), Bell, Spencer, Trajovski, Thomas, Cervinski, Cardozo, Hutchinson (Foster 59), Stergiopoulos, Enes.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Royce Brownlie: Dashed any hopes of the Power had of moving back into the top six with a neatly taken hat-trick.

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Name	Club	Total
DAMIAN MORI	Perth Glory	16
FOSTER Paul	Brisbane Strikers	13
DESPOTOVSKI Bobby	Perth Glory	11
PORTER Joel	Melbourne Knights	10
MILICIC Ante	Olympic Sharks	10
CARDOZO Pablo	Northern Spirit	10
DA COSTA Toto	Melbourne Knights	9
RECH Fernando	Brisbane Strikers	9
URLOVIC Paul	Kingz FC	8

ROUND 22

FRIDAY MARCH 8

Northern Spirit	vs	Kingz FC
Newcastle Utd	vs	Marconi Stallions
Adelaide City	vs	South Melbourne

SATURDAY MARCH 9

Parramatta Power	vs	Perth Glory
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SUNDAY MARCH 10

Olympic Sharks	vs	Brisbane Strikers
Melbourne Knights	vs	Sydney United
Wollongong Wolves	-	Bye

BYE - SYDNEY UNITED